

## Angry clash in Commons as health workers' industrial action spreads

# Thatcher hits at 'selfish' NHS strikers

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

The Prime Minister issued her strongest condemnation of industrial action by nurses yesterday when she gave a warning that today's strike by health workers would gravely damage patients and increase waiting lists.

She was cheered loudly by Conservative MPs when she told the Commons that the strike would increase the burden on those nurses "who would not dream of striking because they would not desert their patients".

She said it was astonishing that some nurses' unions should attempt to use strike action at a time when the pay review body, set up for the nurses because they did not strike, was sitting to consider how much they should be paid.

To furious protests from the

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● There is still £32,000 in the Portfolio Accumulator fund that could be won today, and of course the daily £4,000 prize is on offer. Yesterday's daily prize was won (see page 3).

● Accumulator, launched on Monday, means that you can win either the daily £4,000 prize or the Accumulator fund. That jackpot will be won by a reader with a number higher than the daily total, or, on Saturdays, higher than the weekly total.

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#### Pubs for sale

Grand Metropolitan is selling 700 of its tenanted public houses in one of the largest disposals programmes of its kind. Page 23

#### Insider deals

Government inspectors are investigating a possible case of insider dealing in the shares of Shield Group, the USM-quoted housebuilder. Page 23

#### High St bid

Dixons Group, the electricals retail chain, has made a £16 million recommended cash offer for Wiggins, the electricals retailer. Page 23

#### Budd warned

Zola Budd was warned by the New Zealand Sports Minister yesterday that she "would not be welcome" for the world cross-country championship in Auckland. Page 44

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Opposition, she said it was even more astonishing that Labour MPs did not condemn intimidation of nurses by the hard left.

Her remarks came after another angry Commons confrontation with Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, who called on the Prime Minister to set out the form.

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scope and timetable for the Government's review of the health service to clear up the "public confusion and great anxiety" surrounding it.

Though persistently questioned, Mrs Thatcher refused to commit the Government to funding in full this year's nurses' pay award.

She said the Government had never undertaken to fund a nurses' pay award before knowing what the award was.

She made a clear distinction between "funding" the award and "implementing" it.

In the past, the Government has made it clear that it will not modify recommendations of pay review bodies unless there are compelling reasons to do so.

However, that does not mean the Government will necessarily fund the rise. Health authorities could be asked to meet the increase out of their existing allocations. Last year, an average 9.5 per cent award was implemented in full, but only £200 million of the £480 million cost was met as extra expenditure directly by the Government.

Despite the Prime Minister's refusal to commit the Government to full funding, many Conservative MPs hope and believe that it will indeed do so this year by finding the money from the big contingency reserve.

Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will be questioned on the Government's intentions when he appears before the all-party Treasury and Civil Service select committee today.

Mrs Thatcher's remarks about the nurses' strike were in response to Mr Nicholas Soames, Conservative MP for Crawley, who asked her to commend nurses who were going to stay at their posts today. He said that to suggest that the strike would not gravely damage patient care was dangerous nonsense.

The Prime Minister replied: "The strike will gravely damage patients and increase the waiting lists we have been strenuously trying to get down. This financial year there has been £25 million allocated specially to get them down and there is another £30 million allocated."

"The strike will increase those waiting lists and increase the burden on the nurses who would never dream of striking because they would not desert their patients."

The lawyers were incensed by a new offer of compensation of £7,500 per victim made by LRT independently of the inquiry and by the manner in which the offer was announced.

Mr Charles Pugh, instructed by the West End firm of Russell, Jones and Walker, who represent families of 24 victims and 14 people seriously injured in the fire, criticized the failure to attack the fire during the first 15 minutes.

When The Times gave news of the latest compensation offer to Mr Ian Walker, of the firm, he was furious. "It is highly regrettable that LRT should announce these proposals to the Press without

proper consultation with us", he said.

The offer, he said, was still inadequate.

In its statement, LRT said it would pay a minimum of £7,500 to the relatives of the dead and would pay higher sums to those who had dependents. It said the payment would be offered to relatives of every victim and not just those eligible under the law for compensation.

Inquiry report: page 3

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

The soldier stuck his head in the car window and sarcastically offered to help. "Gentlemen of the press, what would you like us to do?" he asked with a weary smile. "Shall I find someone to shoot for you, or would you prefer us just to beat people up?"

He was a front-line soldier by training, but his mundane duty yesterday was to stand in the rain at one of the many roadblocks sealing off the town of Nabulus, and keep out the press. These roadblocks have become the front line these days in the battle to protect Israel's beleaguered city.

The soldier very correctly showed a written order declaring Nabulus a

About 2,000 nurses are expected to go on strike at more than 40 London hospitals today. Nurses and health workers in dozens of hospitals in other parts of the country are expected to support the action or join in demonstrations.

Many hospitals have cancelled routine operations, but both the Confederation of Health Service Employees and the National Union of Public Employees emphasized that emergency cover had been arranged at all affected hospitals and patients would not be in danger.

"In many hospitals we are just providing the normal bank holiday cover", Colse said yesterday. "The action will add more patients to waiting lists, but the Government's refusal to provide more cash will add many more."

Yesterday, a TUC delegation led by Mr Norman Willis, the general secretary, met Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, in a last-ditch attempt to defuse the nurses' anger.

Mr Willis said Mr Moore had refused to budge on the issue of increased funding for the NHS and had denied making any pledge to fund the nurses' pay award. "We had a very intensive meeting. I had hoped for confirmation that there was a new position on pay awards and funding, but he did not give that."

This was in stark contrast to the outcome of Monday's

meeting with the Royal College of Nursing. According to Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the RCN, Mr Moore gave assurances that recommendations by the pay review body would be implemented and funded by the Government in full "unless there were clear and compelling reasons not to do so".

Yesterday, the Department of Health insisted that Mr Moore had said only that the Government would "accept" the recommendations unless there were compelling reasons not to.

"Mr Moore said there was no way that we could give an assurance to fully fund the award in advance of knowing the recommendations. But he

Continued on page 22, col 6

### Lawyers scorn Tube offer

By Tony Dawe and Rodney Cowton

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The soldier very correctly showed a written order declaring Nabulus a

closed military zone, and we were forced to beat a retreat.

Local commanders have the right — and exercise it — to declare any area a closed military zone. In a game of cat and mouse the press drive back and forth looking for incidents that it

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sometimes creates, and the Army erects roadblocks to try to keep journalists out of sensitive places.

Nor are Palestinians entirely happy when they see cars with big Arabic notices saying *shafli* (press) on the windscreen, or with "TV" taped in large letters on the bodywork. The signs are meant to stop youngsters throwing stones, but dozens of wind-



Mr Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North, with members of the northern nurses delegation outside the House of Commons

### Carnival of support on nurses' picket line

By Ruth Gledhill

A "ghetto-blasters" played reggae music as nurses anticipated today's day of action and picketed Maudsley psychiatric hospital in south London yesterday.

Inside, Royal College of Nursing staff worked 14-hour double shifts to keep the hospital ticking over while other nurses turned lorries and vans away.

A trickle of familiar left-wing MPs turned up to be greeted by megaphone-led nurses singing "Maggie's sitting on her seat. Colse's knocked her off her feet."

The grim messages of crisis failed to crush the carnival atmosphere, even when a funeral Mr Hector McKenzie, Colse's general secretary, made a midday appearance to announce the result of his early-morning meeting with Mr John Moore, the Health Secretary: "I come with no message of hope."

Driving sleek across his message: "The Health Secretary is wrapping himself in a blanket of statistics while health workers know the NHS is crumbling around them."

By mid-morning the Colse and Nupe nurses, who outnumber the RCN at the Maudsley by more than 3-1 and who voted to call yesterday's strike, were joined by supporters from Southwark Labour Party, Southwark Trades Council, the Southwark Pensioners Action Group and activist nurses from other hospitals.

Patients arriving for day treatment that was not available joined the pickets, who had started gathering at 7 am and reached a lunchtime peak of about 200.

The day of action, which had come to London a day early, began to lose steam around 2 pm — until a 35-strong support group arrived from Sheffield, Barnsley and Nottingham. Charge nurse Mr

Continued on page 22, col 5

### Gay rights protesters abseil into the Lords

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Peers witnessed extraordinary scenes in the House of Lords last night as a group of gay-rights protesters abseiled into the chamber in protest at their approval for the controversial Clause 28.

The heavy vote in favour of the clause, banning the promotion of homosexuality by local councils, was met by a hail of obscenities from the public gallery from a group of about 20 young people.

Three teenage girls sitting in a side gallery whipped out ropes from their jackets and attached them to the rail. One ginger-haired girl succeeded in dropping down to the Distinguished Strangers Gallery at the back of the chamber. She was immediately tackled by Sir John Gilling, Black Rod, and his ex-Servicemen band of doorkeepers.

The other two girls hung indecisively above the chamber until other doorkeepers dragged them up. It took three attendants to drag another woman from the public gallery.

The peers attempted to ignore the demonstration. But it caused a dilemma for the television cameras which are not supposed to film protests.

After last night's demonstration Dame Elaine Kellie-Bowman, Conservative MP for Lancaster, who watched it from behind the bar, said: "It was a pure Tarzan act. They flung ropes over the gallery and started shining down them. One

chap almost lost his trousers in the melee.

"Some of them were hanging halfway between the gallery and the floor. Some were trying to pull them up again, and others were trying to pull them down. It was the most extraordinary scene. It beat anything that ever happened in the Commons. Some of them seemed to be hanging in mid-air for minutes on end."

A security official said: "Five women — at least we think they are all women — and one man have been taken down to the cells until the end of the session."

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of business in the House of Lords tonight. They will be released.

He said most of them had "come quietly" after the fracas in the gallery, but one woman had carried on swearing and struggling.

The protesters had kept their peace during the two-hour debate except for the occasional hissing of right-wing speakers.

Business in the House was not stopped officially but Lord McIntosh of Haringey, Labour's Environment spokesman, who had been ousted as leader of the GLC by Mr Ken Livingstone, asked Lord Calhoun to pause in his speech on the next clause because he could not hear him.

Lord Mason, a former Labour minister, who was recently retired to the Lords, said the

antics of the protesters backed up his argument during the debate that there were some very odd people among the homosexual community. He thought one young protester looked as if he was "drugged up to the eyeballs".

Gay-rights protesters had also disrupted the House of Commons after MPs approved the clause.

Although ministers have agreed to bring forward minor changes at the next stage of the clause's passage through the Lords, the size of the Government's majority virtually guarantees it will become law later this year. The voting was 202 votes to 122 in favour of the clause.

Lord Longford said last night that he will try to tighten up the clause at the report stage so that only the promotion of pro-homosexual policies in schools is banned. Lord Falkland, an SDP peer, said he will also launch another attempt to redraft the clause.

The Government was helped by considerable cross-party voting with some Labour peers supporting the clause and Lord Mason making a passionate plea in its favour. However the bishops sided with other Labour and Alliance peers following a strong attack on the clause from the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood.

The main contention has been the broad terms of its drafting which many peers feared would lead to a backlash. Continued on page 22, col 7

### Seamen's union faces huge fine

By John Spicer Employment Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of the National Union of Seamen are facing contempt of court proceedings for alleged breach of an order telling them to call off the ferry strike. Both Sealink and P&O European Ferries, which obtained the order from a High Court judge on Monday, said last night they will be going back to the judge today to complain that the NUS had ignored it.

The union faces an unlimited fine and the possibility of sequestration of its assets if it fails to pay any fine imposed by the court.

On Monday six P&O companies obtained injunctions ordering the NUS to call off

the strike. Yesterday ferries belonging to three of the companies were at a standstill.

Last night one of them, North Sea Ferries, went back to the High Court seeking sequestration of the union's funds and were granted a hearing on Friday morning.

This morning two more P&O companies, Sealink and P&O European Transport Services and P&O Ferries — will also be going to the High Court, together with Sealink, on a similar mission.

The moves followed a day Continued on page 22, col 2

### Blind eye turned on Stalker book

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Government has no intention of taking legal action against Mr John Stalker for breaching the Official Secrets Act by disclosing in his memoirs alleged details of M15 and RUC surveillance operations in Northern Ireland.

The Government is clearly unwilling to risk further embarrassment over the controversial Stalker-Sampson inquiry.

The Government apparently had no advance information about the detailed contents of Mr Stalker's memoirs and his revelation of discussions he had with Sir John Hermon, the RUC chief constable, and an M15 officer based in Belfast about the bugging of a hay barn where a youth aged 17 was shot dead.

However, officials and ministers had a fair idea of what it would probably contain and that it was due for publication this month.

Mr Stalker was covered by the Official Secrets Act as well as a long-standing convention that senior police officers do not divulge information gathered during their careers, particularly in sensitive security areas.

Despite the book's disclosures of Mr Stalker's investigation of allegations that the police operated a "shoot to kill" policy in Co Armagh during 1982, government sources made it clear yesterday that there were no plans to take action against him.

The Labour Party will attempt to embarrass the Government over its treatment of Mr Stalker compared with those who have been pursued through the courts.

Mr Kevin McNamara, Shadow spokesman on Northern Ireland, is pressing the Government to provide time for a full debate

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Oil firm failed to equip sick bay

Relatives of a critically ill man reacted angrily yesterday after Shell, the oil company, was fined £500 after admitting it failed to provide first aid equipment on a North Sea gas production platform. Mr William Chalk, aged 40, is in a coma in hospital after suffering a heart attack while working in the Sean Field, 70 miles off Lowestoft, last June. Another worker tried to resuscitate him but there was no oxygen respirator in the sick bay.

After the hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London, Mr Chalk's mother, Mrs Ivy Chalk, said: "We're devastated. The fine should have run into thousands."

## Charge dropped

A man accused of murdering a British soldier had the charge dropped after he pleaded guilty at Dublin's Special Criminal Court yesterday to a firearms offence.

Michael Joseph Herron, aged 19, of Belleek, Co Fermanagh, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to enable another person to endanger life.

Mr Kenneth Mills, for the prosecution, said a charge of murdering Lance Corporal Thomas Hewitt, of the Royal Green Jackets, in July last year, would not be proceeded with. Herron will be sentenced next Tuesday.

## Solicitor banned

A solicitor, Richard Weston, aged 43, of Taunton, Somerset, was fined £300 and banned for six months at Glastonbury, Somerset, yesterday for being in charge of a car with excess alcohol.

Weston, who led the fight to keep Ian Botham at Somerset Cricket Club, had had his case twice moved to different courts. Magistrates ordered his arrest after he failed to appear in court when he was finally convicted.

The Solicitors' Complaint Bureau said it would be looking into Weston's future.

## Ulster law protest

A delegation of lawyers from the Law Society of Northern Ireland are to lobby peers today over the lack of effective law reform machinery in the province compared with the rest of the United Kingdom. They are pressing for the work of the Government's law reform body, the Law Commission for England and Wales, to be extended to Northern Ireland.

Mr Brian Garrett, chairman of the society's parliamentary and law reform committee, said: "The society regards the absence of any statutory and independent law reform machinery as a serious deficiency." Law reform in Ulster chiefly consisted of "adopting legislative provisions parallel to those already adopted in Great Britain but without adequate consideration of the issues at the initial stages".

## Benefits challenge

Judgement was reserved in the High Court yesterday on a challenge by a coalition of London boroughs and advice and pressure groups that the Government had mishandled the supplementary benefits system to the point of virtual collapse in many areas of London.

The coalition asked for court declarations that the law required Department of Health and Social Security adjudication officers to consider claims within 14 days.

For the DHSS it was said that the system had been operated according to law and no declarations should be made.

## Operation on screen

Millions of television viewers will see a woman have a hysterectomy operation next week.

Mrs Barbara Bromilow, aged 40, of Anfield, Liverpool, will be seen in the operating theatre of the Royal Liverpool Hospital by viewers of the BBC's live *Hospital Watch* programme, which will give daily reports of her progress from admission on Monday and coverage of her operation, scheduled for the Thursday.

Mrs Bromilow said yesterday: "I am not being courageous. I just want people to overcome their fears."

## Death raid verdict

Three men were convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of taking part in a raid on the Sir John Soane's Museum, central London, during which police shot dead an armed robber.

But the jury has not yet reached verdicts on the dead man's younger brother, George Bergin, aged 23, of Ealing, west London, who has denied conspiracy to rob and possessing a firearm.

William McSkimming, aged 27, address unknown, and Lee Frailing, aged 22, of Northolt, west London, were found guilty of plotting to rob the museum of paintings worth more than £1 million. Derek Smith, aged 21, of Northolt, was convicted of possessing a firearm.

## Russians out of world chess fight

From Raymond Keene, Saint John, Canada

The sixth round of the world chess qualifying tournament in Saint John saw the elimination of two Soviet grandmasters, Rafael Vaganian and Valery Salov.

Their opponents, Lajos Portisch, of Hungary, and Jan Timman, of the Netherlands, now join the British grandmasters Nigel Short and Jon Speelman in the quarter finals.

The final game between Portisch and Vaganian ended in a draw after Portisch had gained a pawn by a neat combination.

The first five games between Timman and Salov had been drawn but in the vital sixth the Dutch grandmaster completely outmanoeuvred his young opponent and captured several pawns. Salov resigned the game and the match when faced with catastrophic material losses.

The sixth game between the great veteran Victor Korchnoi (Switzerland) and the young Icelandic Johann Hjartarson ended in an overwhelming win for Korchnoi, who utterly paralysed his opponent's position in a brief space of time. Hjartarson was spectacularly helpless when he resigned.

This match, as well as the Spraggett-Sokolov match, has ended in a 3-3 tie and must be resolved by two play off games.

Korchnoi-Hjartarson

1 N3+	N6+	14 B2+	B6
2 O4	B6	15 N3+	B6
3 B3	B5	16 B2+	B6
4 B2+	B6	17 B2+	B6
5 B-0	B6	18 N4+	B6
6 N3+	B6	19 N3+	B6
7 O4	B6	20 B2+	B6
8 O4+	B6	21 B2+	B6
9 B3	N6+	22 B2+	B6
10 B2+	B6	23 O4	B6
11 B2+	B6	24 B2+	B6
12 B2+	B6	25 N3+	B6
13 B3+	O-0	26 B6	

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## Reactor test prompts evacuation by villagers

Inhabitants of three villages near the Trawsfynydd power station in Gwynedd yesterday announced plans to evacuate the area before next week's planned test to shut down the reactor, despite renewed safety assurances given by government scientists and the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The top-ranking scientists met protesters from Gwynedd for the first time at the House of Commons. The opposition included local politicians, a farmer, teacher, clergyman and local GP.

Mr Tom Kitti, the Irish MP with the ruling Fianna Fail party, told the scientists that the test, planned for February 12, was "repugnant" to the Irish people, many of whom live only 100 miles from the reactor.

He confirmed that the Irish government was exploring methods of stopping the test through the British or European courts.

Two inspectors from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate were yesterday carrying out further examinations at the site before a decision is taken on granting permission to the CEBG, which still has to confirm the date.

One of the protesters was Mrs Avel Irene, who described the evacuation plans to the scientists.

"Buses have been booked and all children from the three surrounding villages will be taken elsewhere. We no longer have any trust in the CEBG because nobody will give a 100 per cent guarantee of safety", she said.

Gwynedd County Council votes tomorrow on closing all schools in the county during the test, in which the gas coolant circulators will be cut off for eight hours. This is to test the claim that the reactor can be shut down safely if the cooling system fails.

Greater Manchester is tomorrow carrying out a nuclear disaster exercise based at Bury Town Hall in response to the Trawsfynydd test.

The exercise, code-named Spring Mist, will be conducted under the auspices of fire and civil defence officers with all-party political support.

All councils within 100 miles of Trawsfynydd have been circulated with details of the Bury exercise and some are sending observers.

Mr Sean Rogers, chairman of Greater Manchester's emergency planning committee, said: "I am not pro or anti-nuclear — just nuclear nervous. We just haven't got the capacity to cope with a catastrophe of the kind which hit Chernobyl if something goes wrong."

He added that the authority is considering action to stop the test.

Dr Brian Edmundson, director of the CEBG's nuclear co-ordinating

group, said yesterday that similar tests had been undertaken successfully at Hunterston in 1982 and Calderhall four years later.

He added: "Concern is misplaced. I am astonished that people have been saying there is not a 100 per cent guarantee. I can give that assurance."

"If the test goes ahead, that will be because it has been shown to be 100 per cent safe."

Dr Edmundson, who co-wrote the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Chernobyl, said comparisons were misleading. "Chernobyl is water-cooled, with pressure tubes. This is a gas-cooled reactor in a large pressure vessel."

"The feature which led to the power excursion that destroyed the reactor was a special feature of the Chernobyl reactor."

"Faults occur on any power station, and nuclear ones are no

different, but there is defence in depth which looks after this.

"There is a multiplicity of safety systems based on different principles and the safety systems are all duplicated."

"We have a continuing job to demonstrate the full safety features of the plant, whenever we can and I think that is something the public would require of us."

Mr Eddy Ryder, chief inspector of the NII, said: "To technical people, it is really hard to understand the concern of the local people."

"The test is safe in principle because there is a big margin between any normal operating limits and any harm or disaster."

"If we thought there was genuine technical reason for it not going ahead, we would not let it go ahead. It is convenient to do it at Trawsfynydd because there is a shutdown coming up."

## London and Bonn wrestle with budget for Europe

By Richard Owen in Brussels and Andrew McEwen in London

Britain and West Germany were deadlocked last night on the central issues blocking agreement on the EEC budget, but there were signs of intensive efforts to achieve a breakthrough.

After an Anglo-German summit in London and a meeting of the 12 foreign ministers in Brussels, cautious optimism was being expressed in the Belgian capital. It was not reflected in London, however, where officials continued to emphasize the difficulties.

Both Mrs Thatcher and the West German Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, said after a two and a half hour meeting in Brussels that they were striving to avoid the failure of next week's extraordinary European Council on farm spending.

Later, the West German cabinet met to consider further German concessions, while British officials in Brussels indicated that Britain, too, was prepared to "do what it can to make a package deal possible".

Britain could meet some German concerns over cereal production, but diplomats emphasized that Britain and Germany still had deep differences over agriculture. "We are approaching the endgame", one British official said.

Although Mrs Thatcher's meeting with Chancellor Kohl produced no breakthrough on the main issues — agriculture and the budget — it cleared an important related hurdle. German sources said that the two reached a confidential deal on the EEC's "structural funds", which redistribute wealth

from rich to poor countries through regional aid schemes.

The agreement probably removes the snare which was most likely to trap any deal that might emerge from Brussels next week. It had been feared that the southern countries would block agreement if they did not obtain a doubling of the structural funds.

The Downing Street meeting also produced signs that both leaders were making a serious attempt to overcome what Mrs Thatcher described as "substantial areas of disagreement".

Chancellor Kohl, making the best of what he confessed was very limited optimism, said: "I leave London in the conviction that we both want Brussels to be a success."

Mrs Thatcher said: "If we do not succeed this time, it is difficult to see why we would be more likely to succeed in Hannover", where the Council will meet next in June, at the end of the German presidency of the EEC.

Both leaders were anxious to dispel impressions that they have little time for each other. The Chancellor spoke of Mrs Thatcher's "usual charm", and she replied: "Charm may be putting it a little bit high — but goodwill, yes!"

After the meeting, Britain and West Germany remained far apart on three of the four main issues preventing agreement on the EEC budget.

Mrs Thatcher said the foreign ministers had reached substantial agreement in Brussels on a scheme to take some agricultural land out of production.



Chancellor Kohl and Mrs Thatcher trying to reach agreement (Photograph: Chris Harris).

## Scottish Labour MPs' leader resigns

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A senior Labour backbencher yesterday resigned as convener of the party's group of 50 Scottish MPs over differences with Mr Neil Kinnock about tactics towards the introduction of the poll tax north of the border.

Mr Kinnock had given a warning to the Labour local government conference in Edinburgh last weekend against breaking the law in opposition to the charge.

But Mr Dick Douglas, MP for Dunfermline West, who is on the centre right of the party, said that he did not go along with the leadership line.

He said yesterday: "I will not distance myself from people who will not or who cannot pay that tax. To adopt

the stance taken by the leadership is an error of judgement."

Mr Douglas's resignation was seen by some MPs as evidence of growing tension between the leadership and the Scottish contingent.

Scotland again voted overwhelmingly for Labour at the last election, and Scottish MPs are under huge local pressure to be seen to be doing more to stand up to the Government, and feel they have to do so to beat off the nationalist challenge.

Mr Douglas wrote his letter of resignation to the Scottish group last night.

He said: "I do not wish my personal stance on the issue to be resented or to be in

conflict with the position of convener by taking a line which is in opposition to that promulgated by the party leadership."

Meanwhile, Mr Tony Benn, Mr Kinnock's most likely far left challenger in any leadership contest this year, implied that the leadership was giving inadequate support to the nurses and others involved in industrial disputes.

Mr Kinnock said at the weekend that ministers were praying for their opponents to advocate breaking the law to shift the spotlight from their "deliberate injustice".

In his second attack on the performance of the leadership in four days, Mr Benn, MP for Chesterfield, said Labour

could disappear if it placed its confidence in the hands of advertising men or pollsters.

He said that failure to support workers when they most needed it explained why Labour's electoral strength had slowly drained away.

Mr Kinnock is to visit the Middle East later this month and will support attempts to establish an international peace conference.

He will be fulfilling a long-standing commitment undertaken well before the recent outbreak of violence in the occupied territories. He will visit trouble spots on both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and is expected to voice concern about the Israeli government's use of beatings

## Airliner skims trees as engine fails on takeoff

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A Continental Airlines Boeing 747 with 425 passengers and 20 crew on board flew within feet of tree tops in Sussex as the captain struggled to gain height after an engine failure on take off.

A major accident alert was called at Gatwick after the pilot of Flight CO 31 bound for Miami reported the failure. As the aircraft, loaded with more than 100 tons of fuel, was buffeted by strong winds witnesses reported smoke from one engine and thought it had hit trees.

But the pilot managed to dump enough fuel and gradually gained height, eventually dropping more fuel over the English Channel before landing safely at Gatwick.

Last June the same aircraft was struck by lightning four times on take off from Gatwick.

The latest incident was considered so serious that the Department of Transport's accident investigation branch began a full scale investigation. It took away the flight recorder to establish how low it flew but established rapidly that the initial problem was a compressor stall in the engine.

Continental Airlines said last night: "The aircraft did not hit trees. It may have bent a few because of the down-draught from its engines."

Since it was taken over by the Texas Air conglomerate a couple of years ago, Continental has become the country's most troubled airline, notorious for chaotic service (Charles Bremner writes from New York). More serious, the quality of its pilots has been widely criticized since the airline broke a strike and recruited non-union staff.

## Seamen's union's last fling

By David Sapsted

The country-wide ferry strike could be the last fling of the National Union of Seamen, an organization whose decline in fortunes and power has mirrored that of the once-mighty British merchant fleet.

Yesterday, as seamen walked off the job in a dozen British ports, the union was scheduled to begin two days of talks over a possible merger with the National Union of Railwaymen.

The strike meant a postponement, but only until the near future, of those discussions by a union that has seen its seagoing membership drop from 30,000 to 20,000 in little more than a decade.

Its general secretary, Mr Sam McCluskie, has been unable to cock a snook at court injunctions obtained by ferry operators against union action

simply because, as he admits, the union has no funds to be sequestered and no money to pay fines.

Even the 161 union members employed by the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, whose strike led to the present dispute, have not received any strike pay since they stopped work on December 29.

"We have no money for strike pay. We are paying our bills, but that is about all", an NUS official admitted.

The union did not achieve its aim on Tuesday of getting 6,000 members to strike on 55 ferries. Nevertheless, the union said it was "very pleased" by the response of its members, who have more than the relatively minor industrial skirmish in the Irish Sea to bother about.

Most importantly, P&O

European Ferries, principle operators out of the pivotal port of Dover, has recently put forward plans to cut crew ratios, which will result in 400 out of 2,000 seamen being dismissed. The company also wants to reduce its complement of officers from about 600 to just over 400 on services from Dover to Calais, Boulogne and Zeebrugge.

Sealink, too, has fired the opening shots in what the union sees as a battle over staff cuts: it has proposed radical crew reductions on two freight ferries operating out of Dover.

The NUS describes the dispute as "the last straw in a decade that has seen nearly every shipping company sack British seafarers in favour of low-cost Third World crews, in an attempt to whittle away hard-won increases in wages and conditions".

## Scargill in second vote defeat

By Roland Rudd

Mr Arthur Scargill suffered a second blow within 24 hours when delegates at a special one-day National Union of Mineworkers conference yesterday voted to ballot the membership on whether to continue the union's four-month overtime ban.

After rejecting Mr Scargill's plea to step up the overtime ban delegates voted by 56 to 53 for a ballot. If miners vote in favour, the executive will interpret how the industrial action should be continued.

Following The Times previous article on 27.1.88, the NUS has been in a state of flux. The union's financial position is precarious. The union's financial position is precarious. The union's financial position is precarious.

## Councils warned of financial chaos

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

## New research council head may resign

By David Walker

The newly-appointed chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council is threatening to resign unless it reconsiders a decision to bow to Treasury pressure and move out of London.

Professor Peter Hall, a planning specialist who is widely credited with inventing the Enterprise Zone concept, told *The Times* yesterday that he was "considering his position" until a further meeting of the ESRC's governing council was convened. He had been due to take up his full-time appointment in May.

The Treasury had said the ESRC must move to Swindon to share an office block with the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Procrastination by Labour council leaders in London has stored up a £350 million gap between their spending and revenues, Mr Howard Davies, controller of the Audit Commission for local authorities, said yesterday.

That warning from an official watchdog about impending financial crisis in inner London will alarm Whitehall officials and ministers as they consider the future of the Inner London Education Authority.

If the authority is abolished, the cost of schooling will fall directly on councils — Camden, Islington, Southwark, Hackney, Lambeth, Brent, Haringey and Lewisham — some of which are already in a parlous financial condition. The Audit Commission estimates that they will have to cut their workforces by several thousand within the next 12 to 18 months if they are to avoid defaulting on interest and loan repayments.

Mr Davies, a former Treasury official, repeated warnings a year ago by the

commission that London local government was in fundamental financial chaos. Mr John Banham, the then Audit Controller, who has since become director general of the Confederation of British Industry, issued a strongly worded paper comparing the physical state of inner London to the Bronx in New York and giving warning of a financial crisis unless spending were cut.

Mr Davies said that little had changed except that the gap had again been papered over by means of "creative accountancy".

That has involved, in certain cases, selling town hall buildings and using the proceeds to maintain their expenditure. Other schemes involve "deferred purchase" in which they have been able to spend and put off the capital and interest payments to a later year.

Mr Davies said that the day of reckoning was approaching for such schemes. "We hear the voice of sweet reason from the former firebrands,

talking of the vital importance of sound finance. But let no one be in any doubt that the really tough decisions and even more important the implementation of those decisions still lie in the future."

Mr Banham had calculated a £400 million gap between the amount the eight councils were spending and the amount they could afford. Mr Davies said some £50 million had been shaved off that by cuts in spending or gains in efficiency. The remaining £350 million had been found by accounting tricks, such as writing off repair costs on council buildings as a capital item covered by borrowing.

"A further £40 million has been found through a variety of devices — interest rate swaps and the like — which merely put commitments off into the middle distance. And a further rundown in balances, already very low, has provided most of the rest."

He acknowledged that Labour councillors now recognized the scale of their problems.

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## King's Cross 'criminal' may be at large

## Arson is not ruled out by London Transport

By Rodney Cowton

London Regional Transport yesterday refused to accept that arson could be ruled out as a possible cause of the King's Cross Underground fire on November 18 last year. It demanded that the matter be thoroughly investigated.

Mr Lionel Read, QC, counsel for London Regional Transport and London Underground, told the public inquiry into the disaster which claimed 31 lives that there was evidence that did not permit the possibility of arson being rejected.

"I do not conceal the very serious concern of LRT that an arsonist may be at large with a predilection for starting fires in the Underground."

If the inquiry was minded to

discount the possibility of arson totally, London Underground would expect sufficient evidence to be presented to justify such a conclusion.

He said he did not want the inquiry itself to be diverted into an arson investigation, but the matter should be investigated by the police.

Earlier, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, said that although arson could not be ruled out, it seemed unlikely.

Mr Read said the King's Cross fire was unparalleled in the 125-year history of the London Underground. Previously, only two people had died as a consequence of fire in a London Underground station. "It is a record which

speaks for itself. London Underground is a very safe way to travel."

He said the purpose of the inquiry should be to learn whatever lessons there were to ensure that a similar disaster never occurred again.

London Underground did not approach the inquiry in a defensive way and would not try to avoid its responsibilities.

It was possible the court would conclude that the fire might have been extinguished at an early stage by the use of fire extinguishers or waterfog system. He said if there was human failure to use equipment provided on the part of individuals and if a responsibility rested with London

Underground, it would not be shirked.

Since the fire, London Underground had identified over 100 safety tasks to be undertaken, he said. They included a special programme to remove grease from wooden escalators, due to be completed this month. Escalator machine rooms had been cleaned, and wooden skirting boards, balustrades and decks on escalators were to be replaced by metal. This programme would be completed by mid-1989.

A programme to replace all wooden escalators had begun in 1975 and was being implemented at the rate of six escalators a year. Consideration was now being given to accelerating the work.

## Conflict over use of paint

Scientists have produced conflicting reports on the "flash-over" which turned the Underground fire into an inferno.

One factor being investigated is whether a special coating, Proderite B2, applied to the walls and ceilings of the escalator shaft at King's Cross may have contributed to the spread of the fire.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the inquiry, quoted conflicting reports on Proderite, and said further study was needed, although it appeared that paint had contributed to the rapid spread of the blaze.

Mr Victor Lyon, representing Proderite, said the B2 system was introduced at King's Cross after a fire in the Oxford Circus station. It was not applied by Proderite, but by general painting contractors.

Subsequent tests had shown the B2 system was applied over previous paintwork, perhaps as much as 11 coats of it, which might have been built up on the ceiling since the escalator was installed in 1939.

If the B2 system were applied to a clean surface, it fell into the safest class of coating. It therefore would be the company's case that it could have little or no effect on the rapid spread of the fire.

He said a meeting of experts on January 25 had decided a sub-committee should be formed to decide what further tests were required to determine the cause of the flashover.

Mr Charles Pugh, representing most of the families of those who died in the fire, told the inquiry yesterday that he wanted to play a "constructive and not a recriminatory role" in proceedings.

The inquiry continues today.

## Cuban art on the move



The Cuban artist Manuel Mendive painting a dancer, Luz Maria Collazo, during a show at Liberty, the London department store, yesterday. The dancer, painted all over, moves to the sound of drumbeat in an exhibition of static and living art which is going to be repeated at the Institute of Contemporary Arts on Thursday and Friday (Photograph: Peter Trivnor).

## Boom in long-haul holidays

By Mark Ellis

A trade war in the lucrative market of long-haul destinations for adventure-seeking travellers is predicted after one of Britain's leading tour operators shelved plans to sell package holidays to Europe next year.

Tour operators believe the relative strength of the pound and a greater choice of destinations will encourage more Britons than ever to travel to the United States, the Caribbean and Far East.

Mr Sidney Perez, chairman

of the tour operators' study group, said that an increase in charter flights was cutting costs even further.

An estimated 13 million people will take package holidays this year, mostly to Mediterranean resorts in Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal, North Africa and Malta. However, the number of tourists seeking destinations further afield are expected to increase by up to 30 per cent.

The most popular long-haul destination for families is

likely to be Florida where many operators include a trip to Disneyworld, but other parts of the US, Caribbean, India, Thailand and China are expected to draw more British tourists.

On Monday, Thomas Cook announced it was shelving its 40,000 package holidays in Europe to concentrate on long-haul destinations, which account for 25,000 holidays a year.

Holidays in the current brochure will be honoured.

## Portfolio Winner used a computer

The winner of the daily £4,000 Portfolio prize is using a home computer program to increase her chances of hitting the jackpot in the new Accumulator competition.

Mrs Kunigunde Cahill, aged 30, a housewife, of Plymouth, Devon, said: "I have been playing the Portfolio competition for one and a half years and the Accumulator is a double incentive to play it."

"I have written a computer program for my home computer to make it more efficient to play. The program does the adding up to give my results and adds to the fun of playing the competition."

German-born Mrs Cahill, who was a teacher before she moved to Devon with her husband, who is a research scientist, said she would be spending her windfall decorating their new home and buying furniture.

The £32,000 Accumulator prize has still to be won.



Mrs Kunigunde Cahill: a program for success.

## Shooting club told to leave

A shooting club near Hungerford, the Berkshire town where a gunman massacred 14 people, must leave the range it has used for 20 years.

The owner of the range, at Hampstead Norreys, has told Newbury Pistol and Rifle Shooting Club to leave.

## Passengers were led to their deaths in heart of inferno

By Tony Dawe

Several passengers who died in the King's Cross fire were directed from platforms where they would have been safe into the heart of the inferno, the inquiry was told yesterday.

On the second day of his opening statement, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the inquiry, said many passengers were changing trains at King's Cross and had reached the right platform to continue their journey when they were told to leave the station.

Among those who died was Buddy Kahn, aged 22, of Wood Green, north London, who arrived at the station on the Metropolitan line and changed to catch a Piccadilly line train home. Mr Kahn, a leading amateur cricketer from Pakistan, who had been in Britain for a year, reached the Piccadilly line platform without incident but was requested to leave it by police and London Underground officers.

He was directed up the Victoria line escalator because the Piccadilly line one was on fire. The Victoria line escalator led into the station ticket hall, which caught the full force of the explosion which followed the fire.

Graham Hall, aged 26, reached the Victoria line plat-

form to travel home to Walthamstow when he was also evacuated on the same escalator into the path of the fire.

Jane Fairry, aged 26, changed trains uneventfully after leaving her job in the City and was on the Victoria line platform awaiting the train home to Highbury and Islington station. Mr Henderson said that she too was evacuated and died in the ticket hall.

Laurence Moran, aged 25, arrived at the station from Paddington on the Metropolitan line and changed trains to catch the Northern line. He was evacuated from the platform and died of asphyxiation close to the ticket hall.

Mr Henderson said the three most seriously injured victims of the fire were all still receiving treatment in University College Hospital. They too had been evacuated from the Victoria line.

The tragedy of these deaths, the inquiry was told, was that immediately after the fire burst into an inferno at 7.46pm on November 18 last year, three trains were stopped on the Victoria line north-bound platform to evacuate passengers.

Mr Henderson said one of the victims, Bernadette Kearney, aged 23, of Acton, west London, should not have been in the station at all. She was heading towards Archway station in north London and normally changed at Tottenham Court Road to take the Northern line passing through King's Cross on the way to her destination.

"From a number of statements by other witnesses on a Northern line train, it appears that the train driver or guard made an announcement saying that passengers must not get off at King's Cross because of the fire. Some passengers mis-understood the message and did get off", Mr Henderson said. Miss Kearney is thought to have been one of them.

Other victims of the disaster included people on a rare visit to London. Jonathan George, in his 20s, had travelled from his home in Leicester by British Rail to St Pancras and was just entering the underground ticket hall when he was overcome by the heat and dense smoke. Philip Marks, aged 55, had been attending a social function at the Savoy Hotel, London, and was passing through King's Cross on his way to catch a coach home to Ringwood, in Hampshire.

## 'Action could halt 40% of cot deaths'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Action before birth could prevent many of Britain's 1,300 annual cot deaths, according to a child health specialist.

Up to four out of 10 such tragedies could be avoided if mothers were given advice about the timing of their pregnancies and the health risks to their babies of smoking, drug-taking and other factors, Dr Jean Golding, of Bristol University, says.

She believes that the focus of medical attention on cot deaths, also known as sudden infant death syndrome may have been misdirected to the time when they are at most risk of dying suddenly and unexpectedly.

"Yet the epidemiological features are mainly those which can have had their effects long before the child was born", she says in an editorial in this month's *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*.

Most cot deaths occur between the second and fifth months of life, with a peak between 10 and 14 weeks of age.

Typically, the babies are found dead in their cots, with no evidence to suggest a cause of death.

Post-mortem examinations tend to find minimal changes, although there are often signs of mild respiratory or gastrointestinal infection.

Features of many cases, however, are that the mothers are younger than average, that the more children there are in the family, the higher the risk, and that children of unmarried mothers are at increased risk, as are children of social classes IV and V.

Dr Golding, Wellcome senior lecturer at the university's department of child health, says studies have shown that mothers who smoke throughout pregnancy are much more likely to have a cot death baby.

There are also links with maternal infections in pregnancy. "Infants of mothers who have taken barbiturates medicinally are also at increased risk and there is some evidence that mothers who

have had a low blood pressure during pregnancy, especially those who have had a fall in blood pressure, are more likely to have a cot death SIDS infant."

It is quite feasible to identify in early infancy those babies at high risk but methods of protecting them, such as increased health visitor contact and regular weighing, have failed to convince specialists of their value.

"It is equally feasible that we should consider interventions at a much earlier stage and consider similar advice to mothers on the optimum times to conceive and plan their pregnancies."

"It is possible that fewer cases would occur if mothers were persuaded to delay conception until they had reached the age of 25 or more, spaced their pregnancies and did not smoke or take illegal drugs."

"It has been calculated that 40 per cent of the present cases of cot deaths in Britain might be prevented using such a strategy", she says.

## Carrington to join Christie's

Lord Carrington is to become chairman of Christie's International after his retirement as Secretary-General of Nato on June 30, it was announced yesterday.

He will succeed Mr Jo Floyd, who has been chairman for the past 12 years.

The appointment was seen as a powerful counter-force to Lord Gower, the British Chairman of Sotheby's. Both are former Cabinet ministers with access to Downing Street.

Even Lord Gower, Lord Carrington's great rival-to-be, expressed approval. "It is an honour for the industry - although I must admit, something of a nuisance."

"We are old friends, and from now on I will have to watch my tongue when I speak to him about work. I will make a splendid friend and rival."

## SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland

Art Market Correspondent

The appointment fuelled speculation about the firm's future. Lord Carrington will be aged 69 when he takes over on July 1, three years older than the man he succeeds.

One theory was that Lord Carrington will act as a stop-gap chairman, while a younger man is primed for the post.

"It takes five or six years to know all the tricks of the trade", one specialist said. "By the time that's up he will be thinking of retiring."

There was also speculation that Lord Carrington was being brought in to steer the company through a takeover. With his experience in Cab-

net, and at both Nato and the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he is chairman of the trustees, he is the perfect diplomat.

Speaking from Brussels yesterday, Lord Carrington said he was looking forward to taking up his new post, although he has little time to think about it now. "I am working flat out here, with the Nato summit coming off and endless meetings, not to mention my farewell tour around 16 countries."

He said he and his family had done business with Christie's over a number of decades. "My family chose

probably the worst moment to sell an enormous amount of stuff in 1931 - the lowest part of the slump."

He and his wife collect watercolours and eighteenth century furniture.

Mr Floyd had postponed his retirement after the resignation of his prospective heir, Mr David Bathurst, after a scandal involving the false reporting of a New York sale results.

In response to speculation that he will now relinquish his sizeable shareholding, Mr Floyd said: "There are no plans for either me or my family to sell any of our shares."

The man tipped as the new chairman at the V&A is Sir Michael Butler, deputy chairman of the museum's trustees.

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QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
	LABOUR	
	Emergency call out charge	75.00
	5 hours extra labour	175.00
	PARTS	
	New thermostat (complete)	15.71
	Bump and valves	52.00
	Wiring centre	21.39
	Expansion tank B'vane O'flow	19.60
	Fittings / copper tube	10.42
	Adhesives, gaskets, seals	6.16

TRAVELLING TIME	1 hr 15 mins	SUB TOTAL	125.28
TIME AT REPAIR	3 hrs 45 mins	LABOUR & PARTS	335.28
		VAT @ 15%	50.29
		GRAND TOTAL	385.57



February 2 1988

## PARLIAMENT

# Thatcher refuses to give pledge on nurses' pay

The Prime Minister said that the Government had never undertaken to fund a nurses' pay award before knowing what that award was.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was challenged three times by Mr Neil Kinnock and again by other MPs to undertake that the pay award would be fully funded.

The last Labour Government, she said, had used a price and income policy to depress nurses' pay.

Mr Iwan Wyn Jones (Ynys Môn, Plaid Cymru) referred the Prime Minister to a report that district nurses in his constituency were spending their free time organizing fund-raising activities to buy medical equipment for patients at home.

Did that not demonstrate to the Government that, far from moonlighting as Mr Norman Tebbit suggested, nurses cared about cuts in the health service?

Would the Prime Minister give an assurance that the nurses pay award to be announced by the pay review body would be funded in full by the Government with no strings attached?

Mrs Thatcher said that she had no doubt that the nurses in Mr Jones constituency did extremely well and were carrying out their duties to their patients. The revenue provision to the health service in his constituency - (Labour protests) - Oh yes, here we go with the facts. How they hate them.

In 1978-79, provision had been £58.1 million. In 1988-89 it was £58.1 million, an increase in real terms of 45 per cent (Conservative cheers).

Mr Nicholas Seames (Crawley, C) asked the Prime Minister to commend those nurses who would stay at their posts tomorrow and do their duty. To suggest that such a patient would not be dangerous nonsense.

Mrs Thatcher said that the strike would gravely damage patients.

Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley East, Lab) said: Your policies have

## HEALTH

Mrs Thatcher said that the strike would lengthen waiting lists. About £25 million had been specially allocated to get them down and there was a further £20 million to come. The strike would lengthen them and increase the burden on nurses who would not dream of striking because they would not desert their patients.

Mr Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition, said that Mr Trevor Clay, the general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, had left a meeting with Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Health, with the strong impression that this year's pay award for nurses would be fully funded by the Government.

"Was that impression accurate? Yes or No."

Mrs Thatcher said that a statement had since been issued by the Royal College of Nursing. The position was: as follows implementation of the pay review body awards came under an undertaking given by Lord Carr when he was a minister in the Commons.

It applied to the top salary review body, and those for the Armed Forces, doctors and dentists. The Government would not modify their recommendations unless there was clear and compelling reason to do so. That was quite different from funding their implementation.

The press statement issued later by the Royal College of Nursing said (interruption) There are four paragraphs. I am quite happy to read out the whole lot - (Mr Faulds: Yes or No.) The press release said - (interruption) I had better read out the whole lot.

The release said that at the meeting between the Royal College of Nursing and the Secretary of State, Mr (Mr Moore) said

clearly that the nurses pay award would be fully implemented unless there were clear and compelling reasons for the Government not to do so.

This was a phrase which had been used in the past when the awards had been interfered with. The Royal College of Nursing did not believe there could be any clear or compelling reason for not implementing or for under funding the award.

Mr Kinnock: Given the number of nurses leaving the wide-spread dissatisfaction and the wide public support for nurses, and for funding their award, what in her opinion would be clear and compelling reasons for not funding the nurses properly?

Mrs Thatcher: We stand by the comments and remarks and the traditional practice we have adhered to.

The pledge given by Lord Carr, the practices to which this Government has adhered, are as those which led to increases in nurses pay of the order of 30 per cent in real terms, in contrast to the five pay years 1974 to 1979. They cut nurses pay in real terms in four of those years.

Mr Kinnock: Will she be absolutely clear? Is she saying to the nurses today that she will not offer an undertaking to fund fully - just as she has never given proper and full funding to the nurses' pay award this year?

Mrs Thatcher: He has asked this question in different terms three times. The answer is the same. We have never undertaken to fund in full a pay award before we know what it is, and what the structure is.

Nevertheless, our total record on nurses' pay is absolutely excellent.

She added that a ward sister on maximum basic pay under Labour received £4,500 and now received £12,000, as a result of the Government's policy.

Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C): Mr Trevor Clay (general secretary of the RCN) said that Royal College of Nursing members are being manipulated and intimidated by extreme left-wingers (Labour laughter and protests).

## Nurses' strike will lengthen waiting lists and gravely damage hospital patients' interests

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## Long-term jobless down by 169,000

Long-term unemployment fell by a record 169,000 in the 12 months to last October, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said during Commons questions.

He planned to meet the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission on February 24 to discuss the new adult training programme, which would offer improved training opportunities to 600,000 people each year.

Mr Archie Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, L) said that the total unemployed, long term, was increasing as a proportion of the unemployed. Something must be done about that.

Would the department consider targeting long-term unemployment black spots, even on a pilot basis, reducing national insurance contributions there, to see if that would help?

Mr Fowler said that these contributions had been reduced for the lower paid, but that was a matter for the Chancellor.

## EMPLOYMENT

Dr Norman Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) said that many Community Programme providers had called for an increase in the average wage for those on the schemes.

Mr Fowler said that as from the autumn, people on the adult training programme would be paid a premium.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that Mr Fowler had been giving complacent assurances. The hard core of long-term unemployed, out of work for more than five years, had trebled in the past three years.

Mr Fowler said that the Government emphasized that had accepted the MSC report on compulsion. It was because of the problem with the long-term unemployed that the new adult training programme was being brought in.

## 'Sales to PLO' investigated

## EXPORTS

Allegations that sophisticated short-wave military radios were sold by Rascal Tacticom to the Palestine Liberation Organization with Government knowledge are being investigated.

Mr Francis Maude, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons that, while he had no evidence from his department's records to suggest that such equipment had been licensed for export to the PLO, if anyone had evidence to the contrary that he would be pleased to see it.

Mr Brian Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, who had raised the issue, asked for an assurance that there would be a report to the House on the outcome of the investigation.

He also asked for an assurance that there had been no similar instances in the past and there would be none in the future.

There was concern about such equipment reaching the armed forces in South Africa, Argentina, parties to the Gulf War and, particularly, the Contras in Nicaragua.

position of the PLO was as had been stated by Lord Carrington when Foreign Secretary, that the Government did not regard the PLO as a terrorist organization.

Mr Maude said that the Government would do nothing that would enhance the capability of any element within the PLO to carry out acts of violence. The departments involved in clearing sensitive equipment for export included the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West, Lab) asked for an assurance that no arms or other sensitive equipment would go to the PLO with the knowledge and consent of the Government.

Mr Maude said that there was no evidence from the records to suggest that any such items had gone to the PLO. But there would be an investigation into the allegations because the Government wanted to know exactly what lay behind them.

Mr Andrew MacKay (Berkshire East, C) said that Rascal had a distinguished record of exporting around the world and they had a clear policy that there

would be no overseas sales without the consent of the Government.

Mr Maude said that he accepted that.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, L) asked what steps were taken to ensure that the destination included in an export application was actually reached. Was the equipment in question lethal or non-lethal?

Mr Maude said that there were differences in the description of the equipment. It was not possible to have a fool-proof system that made it clear beyond peradventure that items went to the stated destination, but the Government did everything humanly possible to ensure that that was the case.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) asked for an unequivocal assurance that there was no intention by the Government to allow the sale of any arms to the PLO.

Mr Maude said that the Government would do nothing which would enhance the capability of any element within the PLO to carry out acts of violence.

Mr Gould: Learning from abroad dominated by financial institutions.

Mr Gould promised that Labour would bring the unions back into the decision-making machinery of economic policy, but his speech concentrated on the need for a new partnership to bring industry into the centre of decision-making as well.

He said: "It will be a partnership based not on any attempt to dictate to industry, but rather on the great advantage to be gained through a systematic and institutionalized effort to ensure that both sides understand each other and work with rather than against each other."

"No government will promise in advance to do everything that industry wants, but there is surely much to be said for at least knowing what is in each other's minds and in trying to increase the mutual confidence on which longer-term planning, for both government and industry, can be based."

He added: "A government

For example, last year 1,566

transplants were performed and there were 3,500 people on the waiting list. About 2,500 people a year were joining the waiting list, which meant that if the present rate of operations stayed constant the list would grow by 1,000 a year.

Mr Jones, vice-president of the Kidney Research Unit for Wales Foundation, is confident that his Transplant Notification Bill will be approved in the Commons under the 10-minute rule procedure, but acknowledges that it could fall foul of a growing backlog of Bills at committee stage.

Mr Jones, MP for Cardiff North, will argue that at present too few doctors bother to ask about possible transplants, with the result that there is a serious shortage of organs and growing waiting lists for transplants.

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But the strength of the Owenites is likely



## Alton angered by committee 'packed with filibusters'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr David Alton, sponsor of the Bill to reduce the legal limit for abortion, criticized the official impartial Commons Committee of Selection yesterday for allowing his opponents to "pack" a crucial committee with filibusters intent on killing his legislation.

It also emerged that the filibusters themselves face the prospect of embarrassing public campaigns in their own constituencies, mounted by Mr Alton's supporters to expose their tactics and shame them into backing down.

As disclosed in *The Times*, a cross-party alliance of Mr Alton's opponents are planning to destroy his Bill by spinning out debate in committee stage on three small preceding Bills so that the Liberal MP runs out of time.

One of the three is Mr Andrew Mackay's Licensing (Retail Sales) Bill, and the Committee of Selection has now approved an 18-man committee, 14 of whom voted against the Alton Bill at second reading.

The names were proposed by Mr Mackay, who led the opposition to the Alton Bill at its second reading, and they include Ms Jo Richardson, the

Labour MP with special responsibility for women's affairs, who is deeply hostile, and such vocal opponents as Mr Peter Thurnham, Mr Eric Forth, Mr Dafydd Wigley and Mr Robin Squire.

Mr Alton, a former Liberal chief whip, called it an "extraordinary" selection. "It is blatant gerrymandering and I am surprised that the Committee of Selection allowed such a committee to be put together when it has been an open secret in Westminster for several weeks that Mr Mackay was trying to organize this kind of ruse."

However, Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the Committee of Selection, said that Mr Mackay's Bill had been given its second reading in the Commons without a vote and that in such cases it was customary for his committee to approve the names proposed by the Bill's sponsor.

"Pro-life" organizations, such as the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children and Life and Care, plan to mobilize their supporters locally to inundate the potential filibusters with protest letters.

Members of an inter-de-

nominational church group, the Order of Christian Unity, will also be organizing days of fasting and prayer in their constituencies to coincide with the MPs' wrecking tactics.

The aim is to make life as uncomfortable as possible for the filibusters. "The British public will be scandalized if a parliamentary ruse or procedural device is used to obstruct a Bill that received a majority of 45 at second reading in the Commons," Mr Alton said.

The Liberal MP is still optimistic that if the filibuster proceeds the Government will help out. On Monday night he met Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, who apparently agreed that the use of such procedural tactics to kill a Bill was not acceptable.

Others on the committee who voted against Mr Alton's Bill at second reading are: Ms Mo Mowlam (Redcar), Dr Lewis Moonie (Kirkcaldy), Mr John Hughes (Coventry North-east), Mrs Teresa Gordon (Billerica), Mr George Gardiner (Reigate), Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham Erdington), Mr Gerry Birmingham (St Helens South) and Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford).

## Castle set for tourist siege



Mr Harry Orde-Powlett inspecting an outside portion of his ancestral home

Castle Bolton in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire, will be launched as a key tourist attraction this spring after extensive refurbishment.

One of England's best-preserved but least-known medieval castles, Bolton was completed in 1399 by Sir Richard le Scrope - later Lord Chancellor of England. It is being restored by Mr Harry Orde-Powlett, a descendant of le Scrope, who was recently given the building by his father, Lord Bolton.

Mr Orde-Powlett, aged 33, has redecorated and replenished several of the castle's most important rooms. Period tapestries, tableaux and furniture have been brought in to enhance the two principal halls, bedchambers and the brew house. Arms and suits of armour have been returned to the armourer's forge.

Mr Orde-Powlett, an Old Etonian and National Hunt jockey, believes that Bolton - open to the public for the last 100 years - is one of the most important medieval castles in the British Isles.

One of the main attractions will be the apartments where Mary Queen of Scots was "imprisoned" with 51 of her servants for six months.

If Bolton can lure visitors in similar numbers as Richmond and Middleham near by, Mr Orde-Powlett may yet be able to raise the £1.5 million he needs to carry out essential structural work which will enable him to open further areas of the castle to the public.

## Poisoned Iraqi 'a spy for Baghdad'

By Stewart Tendler  
Crime Reporter

Detectives believe the Iraqi businessman poisoned in London by a group of his countrymen was an Iraqi intelligence officer, killed because he refused to return home.

Abdullah Rahim Sharif Ali died last month in a west London hospital after being poisoned with thallium, a pesticide, often used by Arab criminals and intelligence organizations. Before he died Mr Ali made a statement to the police and a magistrate naming three Iraqis who he said slipped the poison into his food.

Within the Iraqi community Mr Ali was known as an unsuccessful businessman who supported the Baghdad regime. After weeks of research, detectives in Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad believe that behind this cover Mr Ali was an intelligence officer for the Ba'ath regime, possibly reporting on the Iraqi community in Britain, or acting as a "sleeper", to be used in times of crisis.

Detectives believe Mr Ali became disillusioned with his role. The response from Baghdad was to send officers from the intelligence service to persuade him to return, or to make an example of him.

## Spy kit found in a suitcase, jury told

A suitcase containing advanced surveillance devices was displayed at Luton Crown Court yesterday where a security consultant is accused of conspiring to tap the telephone of a chain store executive.

Det Insp David Toulson said he found the case at the home of the consultant, Michael Anderson, aged 43.

The case bore the name of Mrs Vanessa Calsbrook, the wife of the Dixon chain's security controller, and correspondence from the controller himself, Mr Neville Calsbrook.

Invoices from an Essex firm owned by two other men who have admitted their part in the plot were also recovered. The arrests came after the discovery of a bugging device in a biscuit tin near the home of Peter Hopper. Mr Hopper had worked for Dixon until July 1986 but at the time of the incident was working from home for Comet on multi-million pound deals.

At the time of the incident Dixon was engaged in a battle

to take over the Woolworth chain, which owns Comet.

The jury was told that Mr Anderson, of Brick Kiln Farm, Epping, Essex, believed his own line was tapped. Mr Anderson told a fellow security consultant, Mr Brian Shaw, who had called him to discuss another operation: "Don't say any more, my phone is bugged".

In the first prosecution for alleged telephone bugging, Mr Anderson denies conspiracy to intercept communications.

Two men hired by Mr Anderson, Terry Rowe, aged 42, of Leigh-on-Sea, and his assistant, Terence Franklin Rowe, also 42, of Basildon, who are not related, have admitted the same charge.

Mr William Coker, for the prosecution, said Mr Anderson, who ran Cornhill Management Consultants, was hired by Dixon, the electrical goods chain, to obtain information about Woolworth executives. Bugging was not ordered.

The case continues today.

## Campaign launched to curb salmon poaching

By Kerry Gill

Urgent measures to combat salmon poaching, including a "central intelligence unit" listing suspected poaching gangs and their vehicles, are to be introduced by Scotland's salmon fishery boards.

Poaching Scottish rivers has become big business and is estimated to cost the salmon net and rod industries between £3 million and £4 million a year.

The Association of Scottish District Salmon Fishery Boards is to issue bailiffs with standardized warrant cards, similar to those carried by police, and will train them in the presentation of court evidence. Videos, showing typical poaching scenes, will be

distributed by early summer to teach new bailiffs how to approach a suspect.

Group Captain John Proudlock, the association's secretary, said the intelligence unit would be based in Edinburgh and would collate evidence of gangs from each of the 47 Scottish fishery boards.

The traditional view of a poacher netting a salmon for the pot was outdated, he said. There was evidence that gangs from England moved from one Scottish river to another, netting hundreds of pounds worth of fish a night. There were cases of gangs poisoning salmon pools and packing the dead fish off the surface with nets.

## Channel 4 widens late night service

By Andrew Billen

Britain is to get its first fully networked service of late-night television later this month. Mr Michael Grade, the new chief executive of Channel 4, announced yesterday that the station's present policy of screening weekend programmes up to 3 am is to be extended to seven nights a week from February 15.

Although ITV broadcasts through the night in many regions it will be the first time every part of the country will be able to view into the small hours.

Mr Grade said: "There are indications that 25 per cent of the television-watching population is available and prepared to watch programmes between midnight and 3 am. Now ITV and Channel 4 are trying to find out exactly what it is people want to see."

The new service will have a different theme daily, with repeats from the avant-garde documentary series *The Elephant Hour* on Mondays, a sports chat show on Tuesdays, music on Wednesdays, foreign feature films on Thursdays and the return of the successful open-ended discussion

programme *After Dark* on Fridays.

Mr Grade, giving his first press conference since taking up his job at Channel 4 four weeks ago, made it clear that the "very strong" schedules for February and March that he was announcing were the work of others.

There would be no relaunch for Channel 4 along the lines of the new look he gave BBC 1 three years ago, but he repeated his promise to strengthen weekend and arts output.

Two Saturday night programmes look increasingly likely to be axed: *Black Forest Clinic*, a poorly-dubbed German soap opera and David Letterman's New York chat show. The "jury was out" on both programmes, Mr Grade said.

Other features of the new season are a return of *Film on Four*, *Treasure Hunt*, and a strong line-up of alternative comedy. New comedies include a skit on Roman Britain, *Chelmsford 123*, a series of *Comic Strip* films - including a Hollywood version of the miners' strike - and the Saturday night variety show, *Saturday Live*, returning on Fridays as *Friday Night Live*.

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# Not even Shakespeare could do as much for your business letters as the latest Epson printer.

You would think that the greatest writer in history could have improved the quality of your business letters to an unrivalled degree. But if it were possible to employ Shakespeare today, would it really be advisable?

Suppose he had to compose an apology to a less-than-merry wife from near Windsor who had been making much ado about being sent the wrong product. His reply would probably read something like this:

**Shakespeare Ltd.**  
Stratford-upon-Avon Cosmetics

2b Ormottobe Mews,  
Bard Yard,  
Stratford-upon-Avon.

O Mavis! 'Twas upon th'eleventh inst.,  
When th'barbangers of phoebeus' chariot  
I' th'orient did jocund day portend.  
That I receiv'd thy dolorous dispatch.  
With onion eyes, alack, I did straightway  
Apprise me of th'occasion of thy plaint,  
Whose puissance, I avouch, o'erwhelm'd me quite.  
Though 'Rose of Cherubim' thou didst desire  
To paint thy lips withal, by some mishap  
'Twas 'Strimmer's Scarlet' thou wert sent. I fear;  
Which for thy beauteous visage was not meet  
And did thy cherish'd Maidenhead offend.  
Methinks I may perchance this fault redress  
By giving that which thou prefer'd for nought.  
Yet one thing would I fain to thee make clear:  
If thou think'st th'error mine, th'art sore mistaken;  
The want-wit thou shouldst blame is Francis Bacon.

*My dear Mavis*

The language is not nearly plain enough for business correspondence, and the letter is far too long-winded, even without the three pages of footnotes which usually accompany every line written by the Bard. (The use of abbreviations such as 'receiv'd' and 'prefer'd' seems to be a rather poor attempt to shorten it.)

Furthermore, Shakespeare is known to have spelt his own surname in eleven different ways, which would hardly inspire confidence in a business client today.

Yet to be fair to the great man, there are many other literary giants who would have been even less successful at this particular craft.

The Restoration dramatists' habit of writing the letter 'f' instead of 's' would be somewhat embarrassing (perhaps disastrously so for makers of vacuum cleaners!).

But when it comes to strange spelling, Geoffrey Chaucer certainly takes some beating. One can just imagine how he would write a character reference:

**Chaucer**  
Yarn Merchants

Sevene, Pilgrimes Strete,  
Estate of Industry,  
Counterbury,  
Engelond

Of oon greet man I wolde yow speke a word;  
By hym, al ootheren been nat worth a toord.  
This lerned wight ycleped was Herbert Jones,  
Y-wis, I woot, and scothly for the nonys.  
Wel koude he wryte and rekene with a Bak,  
And nevere wolde he untrewen ynne sik.  
Nowher so busy a man as he ther nas;  
Whan that the tyme for dynen comen was,  
Ful looth wofe hym to drynken ale, pardee,  
Or throuwen aries in the hostelrye.  
He yaf nat for swich ydelnesse a tosse,  
But al the day wolde werken for his bossen;  
So this yonge Herbert hadde noght heigh renoun -  
His tonge, seyde alle, was overmuchel broun.  
But, natheles, his kyndnesse was moost pleyn;  
For he yaf me a fyvere so to seyn.

*Syffing Chaucer*

To think that our children should be exposed to such lamentable orthography in their schools! It is a national disgrace.

However, the spelling of the greatest-ever Scots poet Robert Burns was no better, and the regional nature of his vocabulary would probably be discernible in even the simplest communication, such as a gentle reminder to a client to settle his account:

**R. BURNS.**

Auld Lang Signwriter

Wee, sleekit housie,  
Twa, Haggis Hill,  
Banks and Bracs  
o' bonny Doon,  
Scotia.

Ye De'il! ye aye me twantie poun!  
I canna bide nae mair;  
Sae if ye dinna gie it soon,  
I'll come an' flae ye bare.

I ettle saib ye wi' my aieve  
In wuide unsousie an' dark.  
Your clatty claes I'll aiblins rive  
An' lunt your duddie sark.

Your breeks I'll wi' a crummock whang  
Tae mak ye skreich an' cour.  
Ye winna find, whaur'er ye gang,  
Nae bield frae a' my pooder.

For unco canny wad I be  
Tae dae ye meikle hairn.  
I'll brak your banes that I ma see  
A stookie an' your airm.

I'll skelp your shanks tae mak ye loup  
An' 'mang the thriseles gae.  
Then I'll my walis whittle doup  
An' sned your hurdies tae.

Your gab an' neb I'll ding an' dirl,  
An' syne I'll stound your noddle.  
But gif I amor ye whan ye skirl,  
I care na de'il's a boddle.

*Robert Burns*

A business letter written by the nineteenth-century American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow would at least be comprehensible:

**LONGFELLOW INC.**

Tailboy makers

By the shore of Gitche Gumee,  
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,  
Nowhere near the Rocky Mountains  
Or the Kingdom of the West-Wind.  
GG1285.

Medjakris has beset us,  
Made us all cry, "Wudjoo Bleavit!"  
For we have run out of wood screws,  
Gleaming, shining, 10 mill. wood screws,  
Screws that hold the tailboy doors on,  
Hold the teak-look chipboard doors on;  
Screws that bear the reference number  
KB38577.

Very great the number wanted,  
Very large the total needed,  
Very many screws required,  
Twenty thousand screws required.  
Frantic, anxious are we getting,  
Cannot help but panic, panic.  
Very urgent, urgent, urgent,  
Urgent, urgent is our order,  
Urgent and substantial order.  
Very quickly must we have it,  
Quickly have we very it must.  
Please deliver by next Monday,  
Dum-de-dum-de-dum-de-dum-de.  
If you cannot, I will fetch it,  
Fetch it in my Minnecoopa,  
My beloved Minnecoopa,  
Which I bought of Hapurchas.  
Yours sincerely, most sincerely,  
Yours most utterly sincerely,

*Henry W. Longfellow*

Unfortunately, Longfellow's use of rhythm and repetition becomes unbearably irritating after any length of time.

Perhaps the more direct and frank style of D. H. Lawrence would be more effective. His initials suggest that he might have been cut out to be an international freight courier — so what sort of sympathetic, concerned reply would he have given to the complaints that inevitably occur from time to time?

**D. H. Lawrence & Sons & Lovers**

Manother House,  
Hassler Way,  
Flat-out-on-Charlterley,  
Tillett,  
Wills.

We'd love to handle your goods.

Dear Sir,

Yours,

*D. H. Lawrence*

P.S. And you can — your — as well.

On reflection, perhaps he would not be so suitable after all. It is hard to imagine some of the other major writers of the twentieth century faring any better at drafting commercial correspondence. For example, how might James Joyce have written to accept a job?

Useless House,  
Funnysongson Wayke,  
Troublin',  
Dreeland.

**JAMES JOYCE**  
Photographer

Portraits of young  
men a speciality

Dear Sir,

Sanctuary much fjord querrysepence of Maythefourthbeathyon.

Iale beady-eye ted to lens my sore vices at disservice of  
mirage at St. Vitus's Chacha on Shatterday the dirtiest.  
(Doughnut wary - only pheromoneal higher fee.)

Arm hopping in pratikler to cupchewer the breast possessible  
pairtreas of your sintilleighreen bread-to-be anna whorde  
of ridersmades wither soft philtre.

Araking metre tackier prince was coltusrude hi dear. Whale  
shot rarely in miniature tabby so spiteful asoon villagy  
the far too roughs of my lowcal ruefuls (wooden be bigamy),  
the measure of their compositional crud besetter lacquer  
short on genius sais quai. (Tossay brotherwheze word bee  
crasstupignance.)

Urination to git stitched is ruddepraved. I lonely  
marijuana moulder.

But hair swishing you happenies ad einfortnightum  
(fraternity),

Yoursce Fatfoolish,

*James Joyce*

No wonder Joyce's last words were, 'Does nobody understand?'

Letters written by dramatists of the Absurd would doubtless be equally sheepshank tarpaulin hatstand bambembimbombum.

And while employing one of the leading modern spy novelists to write for you might appear to be a good idea in view of their popularity, their letters could prove difficult to decipher even after the ink had been made visible:

**Tinker, Taylor & Soldier Limited**  
Estate Agents

Take the scaled brown envelope from under the 7th tree along to the south  
of Okopates Needle. Hand the contents to the tramp with the green tie  
holding up his trousers outside Euston Station at 3.30 p.m. Sunday. He will give  
you a telephone number. Ring this three times and ask for Hot Pants.

Re: Information requisition on Operation Semi 36a

1. The heat has brought out the spider plants on the steps and there are insects in every room.
2. Small mounds of earth have been found near the flower border to the east, but the housekeeper will make these less conspicuous with an umbrella.
3. The situation regarding your transfer is quite simple. When Beaumont reported that he had seen Grenouille giving Büchner's report to Botomich with his right hand rather than his left, Henderson realised that the doorky Crapaud had given Zhurov to inspect. Brecht's small, cramped flat was actually for that of Dürrenmatt, who had been trying to contact Underwood about Vladimovski's shabby, crumbling house (not Modinov's, as Escargot had wrongly told Jacobs) ever since Petepanski had warned Frisch that Hamilton was really called Sputnik and worked not for Wright, Goodfellow and Fairman but for Ripenov, Stelin and Turiski, the network which had persuaded Baker to give Mann directions to Cochon's picturesque, rustic cottage rather than to that of Poisson, where Green, working under the cunning alias of Greene, had first suspected that B011 did not in fact exist, but had been invented by Renard, that is to say Getebirsyn, to make Parker think that the price of Heine's stark, modern penthouse would be pushed beyond his reach and, therefore, stay put in Semi 36a so you can't move in for six months.

Please dispose of this letter by eating it.

If you could hire the services of any of the famous names we have mentioned, it would cost you an absolute fortune — and as we have seen, the results would not be particularly good anyway.

Yet for the astonishingly low price of £385 (RRP exc. VAT), you can now buy a printer that will ensure that every business letter you produce is razor-sharp — the new 24-pin Epson LQ500.

Even if what you write has no great literary merit, the ultra-high definition of the LQ500's two correspondence-quality fonts will make it impressively clear and readable.

The LQ500 has several other advantages over the great writers of history too. It is far more prolific, turning out 150 characters per second in draft and 50 c.p.s. in letter-quality mode (all at 10 c.p.i.).

It can adopt different styles much more easily; all you have to do to change fonts is press a couple of buttons on the 'Selectype' panel.

It is also very quiet (only 55 dBA); far more compatible than D. H. Lawrence (it has an IBM character set built in); and far less temperamental than any author (each of the 24 pins in its print head will strike the paper at least 200 million times before it needs replacing).

Finally how many writers can boast their own 8K buffer, automatic sheet-loading facility and pull-feed tractor unit?

For more details on the LQ500, write to: Epson (U.K.) Limited, Freeport, Birmingham B37 5BR. (Or call up Prestel \*280# or ring 0800 289622 free.)

Could any other printer in its price range do as much for your business letters?

To quote the Bard — tennis balls, my liege.

**EPSON**



## Justice for blacks 'must be seen to be done in courts'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates' courts are being urged by the Home Office to take steps to ensure they are not seen to be discriminating against black defendants.

Mr David Faulkner, deputy under secretary at the Home Office, says that although there is no proof that black and white offenders are dealt with differently, there is a "case to answer".

"Can a white magistrate be sure that he or she has the same sensitivity and understanding of the situation of a black person as he has of the white people among whom he probably grew up and among whom he has probably spent most of his life?"

Writing in the latest issue of *The Magistrate*, journal of the Magistrates' Association, he

says: "Black people may come into court not only as defendants but also as witnesses, relatives, or parties in civil proceedings, as solicitors or probation officers, or to make inquiries about fines, maintenance or other matters".

Courts must ensure black people receive the same standards of justice and fairness as anyone else.

In most cases they did, but there were occasional lapses or misunderstandings which could do great harm.

Mr Faulkner urges all courts, especially those in areas with large black populations, to look first at their staffing and at whether there are black faces to be seen among the usher or other court staff who come into contact with the public.

Second, they should see if notices and forms are in different languages or whether the court is "part of a monolithic white establishment in which black people have no part".

Third, they should ask whether the oath is administered easily and sensitively for people of non-Christian religions, or whether they are "made to feel uncomfortable or as if they do not belong".

Courts should also consider how easy it is to find an interpreter, if necessary, and what steps they are taking to meet the requirement of the Bail Act to "have regard to the defendant's associations and community ties".

It is quite common, he says, for a young black person to move between members of his extended family, which may be very supportive, but which on paper will look as if he has "no fixed address".

The probation service should examine that problem, he says, along with the difficulties of writing social inquiry reports.

He points out that black people represent about 4.3 per cent of the population and those of West Indian origin between 1 and 2 per cent.

Home Office figures last year showed that ethnic minorities represented 12 per cent of the prison population, a figure which has since risen to 14 per cent.

If magistrates believe simply that "justice should not recognize colour" and that "there is nothing to discuss", Mr Faulkner urges them to think again.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord MacLay of Clashfern, raised the issue of the appointment of black magistrates in a recent speech.

One reason why they were disproportionately represented on the bench was because of the initial small pool of candidates, with first generation immigrants not seen or seeing themselves as candidates.

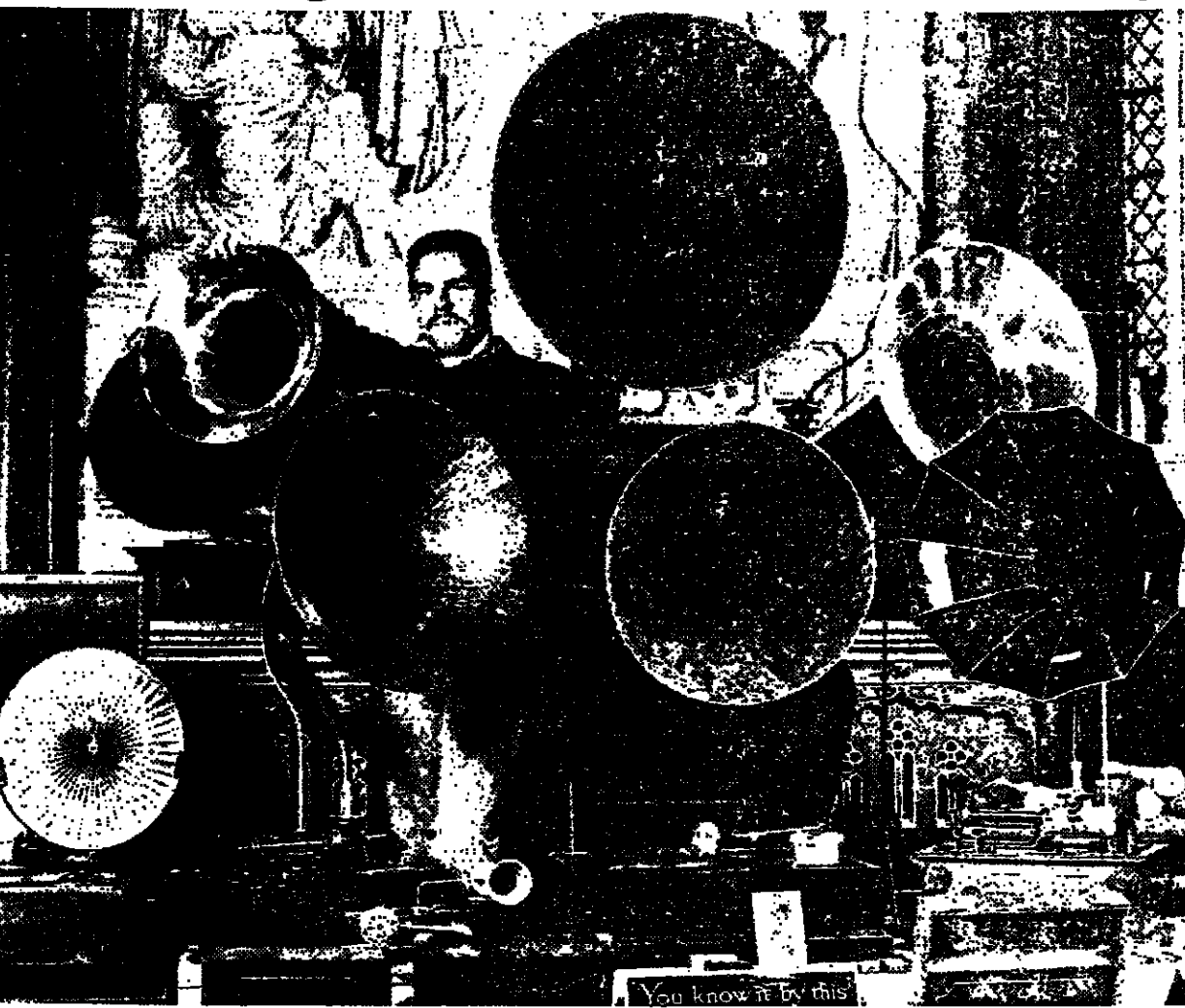
But today some 44 per cent of the black population were born in this country and the appointment pattern for magistrates since 1962 reflected that change, he said.

From 1960 to 1969 12 black magistrates were appointed, 11 men and one woman; from 1970 to 1979, 122 (92 men and 30 women) and from 1980 to 1986, 235 men and 86 women.

At the end of 1986 there were 23,730 active magistrates of which 452 (under 2 per cent) were black.

Recent appointment figures show that more than 4 per cent of new magistrates are black.

## Winding up of musical history



Speakers' corner: Inside a splendid Victorian church in Chichester, West Sussex, history is being preserved through the efforts of a man with an unusual ear for music.

Lester Jones (above) and his father Clive are the curators of the Mechanical Music and Doll Collection, an assembly of more than 100 gramophones, phonographs, other mechanical musical instruments and antique dolls from Victorian and Edwardian times.

The collection, thought to be the most comprehensive in Britain, was started 43 years ago by Lester Jones's grandfather, George, who had a

passion for collecting Victorian artefacts.

It gradually expanded until the family moved it into a disused church five years ago and put the display on show to the public.

"We just started to collect items which other people were throwing out as rubbish", Mr Clive Jones said.

The Mechanical Music and Doll Collection can be visited at Church Road, Portfield, Chichester, West Sussex. It is open seven days a week from Easter to the end of September, but only at weekends in the winter.

(Photograph: Julian Herbert)

## Two are remanded over jail escape

John Kendall, aged 36, was yesterday remanded in custody until tomorrow at Leicester Magistrates Court accused of escaping from Gartree maximum security prison in Leicestershire last December.

He is also charged with conspiring with Andrew Graham Russell to break out of Gartree, unlawfully taking control of an aircraft, falsely imprisoning Mr Ian Evans, the pilot, and having a firearm or imitation.

Miss Anna Zimand, for the prosecution, said Kendall's wife Lorraine, aged 27, had earlier been charged and bailed to appear on March 1.

In a separate hearing, Mr Russell, of no fixed address, was also remanded in custody until tomorrow. He faces charges including aiding Kendall and Sydney Draper to escape from Gartree, impeding the prosecution of Kendall knowing or believing him to be guilty of an arrestable offence, having a firearm or imitation with intent to hijack, and conspiring with Kendall and his wife and others to assist a prisoner to escape.

Draper, aged 39, who was serving a life sentence for murder, is still on the run.

## Bar to combat discrimination

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Bar is trying to stamp out racial discrimination in the legal profession through changes to the Race Relations Act 1976, which would make it unlawful for any lawyer to discriminate against a barrister on grounds of race.

The Home Secretary will be approached with amendments the Bar has drafted to the Act, which will enable barristers to bring legal proceedings against any solicitor who refuses to instruct him on racial grounds.

Solicitors will be protected from the Act's sanctions only if they have can prove they acted upon the express written instructions of a client not to instruct a particular barrister or a barrister of a particular racial group.

At the same time, the Bar wants it to be made unlawful for a barrister to discriminate against another barrister when offering pupils and tenancies, or against existing pupils or tenants in the running of chambers.

The amendments have been drafted by Mr Michael Beloff, QC.

Mr Robert Johnson, QC, chairman of the Bar, said yesterday: "It is the policy of the Bar council to do all it can to deal with difficulties that undoubtedly exist in our profession as well as others."

"This seems one way forward." For some time, black and Asian members of the Bar had been concerned that there was discrimination against them, both in relation to being instructed by solicitors and in

being admitted to chambers as pupils and tenants.

"At present the Race Relations Act does not give any remedy for this kind of discrimination and the proposed amendments are intended to fill the gap."

A frequently-voiced complaint among black barristers is that they are not given important briefs from solicitors.

Solicitors maintain that if this is so, it is because of the client's own prejudice in not wanting a black counsel.

Mr Johnson said there was concern over the situation that might occur if a solicitor asked a chambers clerk for a particular barrister, was told he was not available, and was then offered the name of someone else obviously not white.

"The solicitor then may make an excuse and go elsewhere."

He added that it was a problem for solicitors because there were clients who were racially prejudiced in all walks of life.

That was why the Bar was proposing that solicitors be protected from legal action where they could show they had acted on the client's written instructions.

The Bar's race relations committee has also agreed to commission a survey from Coopers and Lybrand, the management consultants, on racial disadvantage at the Bar.

Existing statistics are incomplete and the evidence of discrimination is largely anecdotal.

## Unhappy pop singer admits making £1m

Holly Johnson, the pop singer, agreed in the High Court in London yesterday that he had become a millionaire with the group Frankie Goes to Hollywood.

He said he had received £980,000 from the group's last records and with other sums had made more than £1 million.

But the singer, aged 27, insisted he wanted to break away from the group's organization, headed by Mr Trevor Horn, the producer, because it was not a "happy and jovial" work atmosphere.

"I did not get on with them as people and I do not think they have any respect for me", he said.

Mr Horn's company, Zang Tumb Tumb Records, and the music publishers, Perfect Songs, are attempting to keep Mr Johnson to agreements signed in September 1983. Mr Johnson is counter-claiming damages for money he claims he is still owed.

The hearing continues today.

## Gay clergy 'terrified to admit their sexuality'

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Editor

Bishops of the Church of England were being pressed by public opinion and some national newspapers into adopting liberal policies towards homosexual clergy, members of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement said yesterday.

At a press conference called to register their opposition to recent developments in the church, one member of the movement, the Rector of St Luke's, Charlton, south-east London, the Rev Tony Crowe, said it almost amounted to a "right-wing plot to destabilize the church".

In response to the climate of opinion and in the light of last November's General Synod debate on homosexuality, some bishops had felt they had to make statements they would not normally have made, he added.

"Gay clergy are frightened, quite terrified, to speak out about their sexuality, whether they are practising homosexuals or not", he said. As a

result some clergy were considering moving from a hostile diocese to a more tolerant one.

Mr Geoffrey Thompson, editor of the *Lesbian and Gay Christian* magazine, said bishops had watched their old structure of "nods, winks and discretion" crumble about them. The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement was dismayed at the pastoral implications of such statements and, still more, struck by their hypocrisy.

Mr Crowe said some newspapers, particularly *The Sun*, were "fanning the flames" by getting bishops to make moral judgements about homosexual clergy. He added that "pulpit poofers" were now legitimate targets for "gay-bashing".

Before next week's meeting of the General Synod, the House of Laity is to hold a separate meeting at which it will discuss homosexuality among the clergy.

## Species to be kept on ice

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Some species of wildlife doomed to extinction may be regenerated from frozen embryos many years after they have vanished from the Earth, scientists believe.

A unit at London Zoo will use test-tube fertilization techniques to gather, freeze and store the eggs and sperm of endangered animals such as the panda, gorilla, and possibly the African black rhino.

The "frozen bank", believed to be the first in Britain, will concentrate on species whose populations have dwindled to between 50 and 100 individuals.

Professor Tony Flint, director of science at the Zoo, hopes to raise about £150,000 to set up the project. He will launch an appeal this summer among conservation-minded industrialists, companies and businesses.

"Freezing certain animal embryos, eggs, sperm and DNA has become both feasible and necessary", he said yesterday. "We are looking a long way ahead but it may be possible in the next century to regenerate a rhino that goes extinct in the next 20 years. It's a gleam in the eye at the moment, but I believe there are very exciting possibilities."

Dr Harry Moore, the head of gamete research at the zoo, said: "Freezing sperm has proved difficult in the past, but we appear to be close to solving many of the problems".

With support from the Medical Research Council, the zoo has already succeeded in storing the sex cells of the panda, gorilla and other primates. Part of the project will be devoted to learning more about the evolutionary relationships of some species.

The conservation plan is spurred by scientists' knowledge that the world is rapidly losing many species as their habitats are destroyed by farming, industry and other human activities.

In South America alone, 60,000 square miles of rain forest are lost every year, and the World Wildlife Fund says that as many as 1,200 species could be wiped out within three years.

A spokeswoman for the World Wildlife Fund, which is cautiously endorsing the zoo's scheme, said yesterday: "It cannot be an excuse for not protecting animals in the wild, but if nothing else can be done it could be justified".

# If you go down to Heathrow today, you're sure of a big surprise.

For January 20th was the day TWA opened their spacious new check-in facilities.

Now, in TWA's new hall, you will find 22 new check-in desks, 5 ticketing counters and a smart new information centre. And several check-in desks are dedicated solely to First and Ambassador Business Class, for smoother passage.

Thanks to TWA, you can now start your journey feeling fresh. Which makes good business sense because then you won't arrive feeling like a bear with a sore head!

# TWA

LEADING THE WAY TO THE USA.



## WORLD ROUNDUP

## TV stations snub Reagan's speech

New York (Reuters) — The three leading US television networks — ABC, NBC and CBS — will not provide live coverage of President Reagan's speech from the White House in support of new aid to Nicaragua's Contra rebels. They said they had decided the speech was not a major change from their recent reports of Mr Reagan's efforts to win congressional approval for \$36 million (£20 million) of aid.

The White House spokesman, Mr Marlin Fitzwater, said he thought ABC, CBS and NBC were showing bad judgment. "I think it's newsworthy. They make a mistake by not carrying it," he said.

## Nato plea to France

Washington — Britain would like to see closer French co-operation with Nato, including the use of French ports and airfields in reinforcement exercises, Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told the World Affairs Council here yesterday (Michael Binyon writes).

While welcoming all allied co-operation that would strengthen Nato, he said Britain wanted to see France return to the integrated military structure. He noted French forces have started to exercise further forward in southern Germany, and added: "We would like to see this extended to the north German plain."

## Brazzi acquitted

Venice (Reuters) — Italian former screen idol, Rossano Brazzi, has been cleared of arms trafficking charges after a three-month trial in Venice. Signor Brazzi, aged 71, one of Italy's leading romantic screen actors since the Second World War, had consistently denied the charges.

He was among 22 people acquitted on Monday. He had been accused of international arms trafficking between 1982 and 1984. Nine defendants were found guilty of belonging to a network which supplied weapons and missiles to mercenaries and Middle East countries.

## Plenca's evidence

Belgrade — Mr Dusan Plenca, the Yugoslav war historian who uncovered a document allegedly implicating President Waldheim of Austria in war crimes, said the original is in the state archives in Belgrade (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Professor Manfred Messerschmidt, a member of the international commission of historians investigating Dr Waldheim's war record, said yesterday that he hoped to travel here from Zagreb to see the original. In Zagreb he uncovered 30 new documents which provided evidence that President Waldheim should have known about the atrocities in Kozara in 1942.

## Sanctions studied

Harare — Studies aimed at showing South Africa's vulnerability to economic sanctions and strengthening measures imposed so far imposed have been commissioned by the meeting in Lusaka of eight Commonwealth foreign ministers (Jan Raath writes).

The Lusaka meeting, the first in a series of five by a committee of foreign ministers from Australia, Canada, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, is concentrating on countering anti-sanctions lobbies and South Africa's own "veil of secrecy". A spokesman said that Australia had already drafted a preliminary report on South Africa's connections with the international finance system and a second report will demonstrate the effects of sanctions to counter arguments, chiefly from Britain and West Germany, that an economic blockade against South Africa cannot inflict damage against its economic powerhouse.

## Festival of arts

## California to see best of British

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Anglophiles are dusting off their Harris tweeds, polishing their Barbour coats and practising their vowels in preparation for UK/LA, a three-month "celebration of British arts" which invades California from tomorrow.

In the presence of the Duke and Duchess of York, some of Britain's best visual, musical and theatrical figures will display their talents in the California sunshine.

An idea conceived by the British Consul-General in Los Angeles, Mr Donald Ballentyne, the festival is sponsored by a host of commercial concerns led by the British-born philanthropist Mr Norman Lee, now based in Beverly Hills.

The National Theatre is the main omission, but it will scarcely be missed, what with the production, by the Music Centre opera group and the English National Opera, of *The Mikado*, directed by Jonathan Miller and set not in Japan but in a 1920s English seaside resort Grand Hotel.

Dudley Moore, the actor and musician, appears as Kokoi in the production at the historic Wilton Theatre, where Sir Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will follow.

The full Academy of St Martin in the Fields Orchestra under Sir Neville Marriner, the Birmingham Symphony with Simon Rattle, the English Chamber Orchestra and the English Concert Orchestra will all perform. And the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Andre Previn will have an excuse



Dudley Moore: playing Kokoi in an English hotel.

Michael York, The University College of Los Angeles, is staging a 1960s retrospective of British classics such as *Look Back in Anger*, *Room at the Top*, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, *Tom Jones* and *Morgan*.

Several full-length BBC radio plays will be heard over National Public Radio, and Public Broadcasting the non-commercial TV service, will show Dennis Potter's *The Singing Detective*.

There will also be art exhibitions: the engravings of Hogarth at UCLA, and British portraiture — Gainsborough, Reynolds and Constable — at the University of Southern California.

## New Yorkers intent on living out fiction

From Charles Bremner, New York

New Yorkers are not just devouring Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities*, turning this vast novel into one of the best sellers of the decade, but they also seem intent on acting out scenes from its plot.

Since the wicked and brilliant satire on 1980s New York hit the bookshelves last autumn, hardly a week has gone by without at least one episode in life mirroring Mr Wolfe's art, sometimes more hilariously than he would have allowed himself to write.

For instance, the novel, a 650-page panorama in the tradition of Balzac and Thackeray, opens with a black Harlem crowd gleefully shouting down the mayor, whom the reader assumes to be Mr Edward Koch, as he tries to make a speech. Two weeks ago, the fiction became fact, and *The Daily News* splashed a banner headline: "Koch booed down in Harlem".

More implausible have been the antics of the Rev Al

Sharpton, a black activist who has sprung from obscurity in the past two months almost as if he had been invented to fit the part of the Rev Bacon.

Bacon is the vengeful Harlem demagogue who enjoys power, publicity and private profit as a spokesman for the oppressed. Among his tricks, he orchestrates demonstrations for competing local television crews, making a handful of supporters look like a crowd.

Last month, as racial tensions boiled up over a trial verdict, the overweight figure of Mr Sharpton was suddenly everywhere on the local news as he led "days of outrage" protests with gaggles of supporters.

Then, a fortnight ago, *Newsday* revealed him to have been a long-time FBI informer, a role he agreed to play after being implicated in a cocaine deal. "How Al Sharpton conned the movement, the media and the Government," said last week's *Village Voice* story.

Lawyers seem to have been

taking Wolfe caricatures as a challenge. Thomas Killian, the shark-like criminal defender in the book, would have been proud of a statement last month by Mr Jeff Weller, a lawyer whose client had just confessed in detail to the murder of his new bride. "My client is not guilty," he said. "As far as I can see, all they have right here is a confession."

So precise are Mr Wolfe's cruel observations of New York types, from the Rev Bacon to Wall Street money-men, to the thugs of the Bronx, that *Bonfire* names are already entering daily speech. Mr Wolfe may be more a journalist than another Dickens, but New Yorkers are talking about a Sherman McCoy or a Rev Bacon as they might refer to a Mickey Rourke or a Grigori Yavlinsky.

This is not the game of identifying the players in a *roman-a-clef*, Mr Wolfe's people are types, not individuals (though there is no shortage of guesswork on the original for Peter Fallow, the sponging British newspaperman, who is

the only winner in the tale). Like the names, *Bonfire* language is joining the vocabulary. This is no surprise, given Mr Wolfe's history as a corner of vogue phrases such as "radical chic" and "right stuff".

At the opening-night party for *The Phantom of the Opera* last week, a clutch of socialites was busy dividing the "social x-rays" from the "temon-tars" at the next table. These are Wolfe's two categories of society women as observed by his anti-hero Sherman McCoy, the Wall Street "master of the universe" whose tragicomic descent into the inferno of the city's criminal-justice system is recounted in the novel.

The x-rays are the original wives, "starved to perfection". The lemon tarts are the recently-acquired blonde comorbs of successful men.

Mr Wolfe's merciless eye for the black under-class and the motives of his defenders has earned him reproaches for racism, though he is no less

malicious towards the Wall Street rich and the world of the Manhattan rich, as typified by McCoy and the Bavardages, a socialite couple.

New York, in his vision, is a jungle of hypocrisy and class warfare, a Third World place where money buys insulation from the absurdities of cubby-hole-sized flats with four-figure rents. Mr Wolfe lovingly chronicles the life-style of McCoy, who is going broke on a million dollars a year as a Wall Street bond salesman with a Park Avenue duplex, Mercedes, Long Island summer house and \$1,800 (about £1,000) Savile Row suits.

The Wolfe treatment has added a frisson of self-recognition to the tremors of insecurity echoing through Manhattan's more monied avenues since Black Monday. Mr Wolfe's detractors, and there are many, say *Bonfire* fails because everyone is savaged except for an old Jewish judge in the Bronx. For the critics, Mr Wolfe's relentless realism is *Bonfire*'s biggest flaw.

Anything that could be so much fun could not be high art, runs the gist of their complaint, though nearly all of them set Mr Wolfe alongside Tolstoy and the other classics before knocking him down.

Frank Conroy, of *The New York Times*, and others reproach Mr Wolfe for his malice, pessimism and failure to resolve the character of his hero as a true novelist would. "When the author has let go of your lapels and the book is over, there is an odd aftertaste, not entirely pleasant," he said.

The critics do not say it, but part of the discomfort probably comes from the novel's all-too-accurate dissection of their own tribal milieu.

Mr Wolfe, now considerably richer, tells interviewers he is just painting the life of the city he really loves. "New York is a carnival that never disappoints."

*Bonfire of the Vanities*, Mr Wolfe's first novel, will be published in Britain next week.

## French agent assassinated by gunmen in east Beirut

From Juan Carlos Gamero, west Beirut

At least three gunmen firing silenced pistols from a car in Beirut yesterday killed a young Frenchman, who was later admitted in Paris to have been an undercover agent of the DGSE, France's external security service.

The daylight attack brought to five the number of Frenchmen assassinated in east Beirut in the past 16 months.

Medical reports said that M Jacques Merin, aged 27 — whose supposed job here was as an electronics salesman — died instantly of three bullet wounds to the neck and the chest as he drove his BMW through the Ashrafieh district. According to some witnesses, the gunmen fled in a blue Peugeot as M Merin's car crashed into a post.

It was not known which of the extremist groups active in Lebanon was behind the killing. There is no doubt, however, that the latest assassination is part of the old, ruthless anti-French campaign in Lebanon.

Militants of the far left still regard France as a colonial power with various political ambitions in Lebanon, while pro-Iranian Muslim radicals have vowed to punish Paris for its support of Iraq in the Gulf war.

In West Beirut, meanwhile, the case of eight Europeans seized in the Mediterranean by sea-borne commandos of the radical Abu Nidal organization almost three months ago took an unexpected turn.

The kidnappers released a brief videotape message in which Mme Jacqueline Valente, a French citizen, said she had decided not to let her two daughters gain their freedom and join their father in France. "I want to keep them with me," she said, looking straight at the camera, with a Palestinian flag and emblems of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council in the background.

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## Hamadei brother 'key to three kidnappings'

From John England, Bonn

A Lebanese suspected of kidnapping Herr Ralph Schray in Beirut last week was seen as the key figure behind the abductions of two other West Germans in the city a year ago, a Düsseldorf court was told yesterday.

Mr Fayek Riad, an interpreter for the federal criminal bureau, said he made 25 telephone calls to Beirut last year with messages for the suspect, Mr Abdel Hadi Hamadei. They were taken by Mona Hage, a Lebanese woman who had an Islamic marriage contract with Mr Hamadei's brother, Abbas. He is on trial for the kidnappings last year of Dr Rudolf Cordes and Herr Alfred Schmidt.

The federal public prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe said it was investigating Mr Hamadei on suspicion of having been an accessory to the kidnappings. He is believed to be hiding in Cyprus.

Haunted by the spectre of widespread resentment from Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms, the Soviet authorities have begun publishing the country's first list of job vacancies, the Kremlin's novel equivalent of the West's "situations vacant" columns.

The appearance of the list follows an official prediction from Mr Leonid Kostin, the deputy head of the state labour committee, that up to 16 million people could lose their jobs by the turn of the century

as the streamlining of the antiquated economy progresses.

According to the official paper, *Moskovskaya Pravda*, the job bulletin will initially be restricted to circulation among overstaffed ministries and state institutes in the capital where the cuts will be felt first.

About 60,000 employees at Moscow-based ministries — some 50 per cent of their staff — face the prospect of redundancy by 1990.

Employees under threat will be informed about other jobs available and prospective sal-

## Horror lingers when the hostage drama ends



Tears of relief and looks of anxiety greeting one of 17 hostages freed by two American Indians who took over a local newspaper in Lumberton, North Carolina, to protest against racial injustice. The two later surrendered.

## Israel hawks push home advantage in US stance

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Right-wing Likud members of the Israeli coalition Government, pleased at the American veto of the latest United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israeli policy, are campaigning to convince the US Administration that Israel will never leave the occupied territories.

Foreign Ministry officials believe the US has already learnt one lesson in vetoing the resolution on Monday evening. Before Christmas it supported a resolution condemning Israeli policy in the occupied territories; now it has vetoed two consecutive similar resolutions.

The Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Mr Yoni Netanyahu, said after the vote that it was "a sign that the basic friendship between the two countries can stand up to the test even in difficult days".

The new campaign was spearheaded yesterday by Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Minister, who told a group of settlement leaders that he intended to build "thousands" of new flats in the occupied territories in the financial year ahead, as well as new roads in two security risk areas.

"We won't give up land, water or the basis of our authority," he said. "Our presence is not temporary, and we will tell this to our American friends."

This message is identical to that of Mr Ariel Sharon, the Trade and Industry Minister, who has made two speeches this week calling for increased Jewish settlement in the occupied territories in order to improve security and to put an end to the Palestinian unrest.

The State Department is expected to release a new policy paper in the next few days in which it is likely to repeat its opposition to permanent Israeli rule in the territories and to suggest an interim three-year period of "expanded autonomy" leading to a kind of association or confederation between the territories and Jordan.

The "expanded autonomy" would include an end to Israeli settlement, the transfer of control over land and water rights and the granting of political rights to Palestinians, who would be able to elect a self-governing authority.

American officials have suggested that Mr Shamir, prompted by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is ready to accept this interim settlement, including elections for the new authority. Mr Shamir, however, if ever he did make such concessions, has now firmly denied doing so.

His spokesman has issued a statement saying that the Prime Minister is bound by the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords and that there can be no question of negotiating away the future of the territories linked to an interim autonomy arrangement.

Mr Shamir himself said "help us maintain present and future settlements in the territories". Settlement leaders are also campaigning against any suggestion that land should be handed over. The Gush Emunim (Band of the Faithful), the main settlers' organization, met on Monday evening and condemned Mr Shamir for bowing to American pressure and "pouring oil on the flames".

Heavy rain yesterday helped to limit the number of demonstrations, with only a few stone-throwing incidents reported.

On-site inspections which were good for the Soviet Union should be good for Japan, Mr Tsuruyoshi Yamaguchi, of the opposition Japan Socialist Party, said. "Times are changing," he told the Lower House budget committee. "Japan should hold preliminary discussions rather than wait to be consulted in order to confirm that nuclear weapons are not brought into Japanese territory."

In response, the Government ruled out an approach to the US. That was not good enough for Mr Yamaguchi, who was instrumental in cutting off the morning debate on the budget.

Sanctions countered: North Korea is retaliating against US and Japanese sanctions by freezing relations. The US sanctions were "like a thief crying 'stop thief'". Pyongyang said, denouncing US attempts to insult and impair the sovereignty and dignity of North Korea.

## Takeshita poser on US nuclear weapons

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Takeshita Government has been subjected to a rare grilling over the possible presence in Japan of American nuclear weapons.

Twice in Parliament yesterday, the opposition broke off debate on the budget to focus on the Japan-US Security Treaty and its vague provisions on US rights. Japan's non-nuclear principles prohibit the manufacture, possession or storage of Japanese soil of nuclear weapons, and the treaty commits the US to consult in advance if any nuclear weapons are to be transported to Japan.

The Tokyo Government works on the assumption that if the US does not mention it then no weapons are coming in. The opposition does not buy this polite fiction, and yesterday took advantage of the new US-Soviet INF treaty to beat the Government with its nuclear policy.

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co-operatives at factories to manufacture consumer goods.

Because the right to work is guaranteed under the Soviet constitution, unemployment has long been officially declared abolished. But Western economists believe that it is already running at between 2 and 3 per cent a year.

The experts also claim that if the reforms are to be effective, job redistribution will have to take place across the country, and that many of those sacked in Moscow will have to leave the city to find work.

## Moscow publishes a 'situations vacant' column

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Haunted by the spectre of widespread resentment from Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms, the Soviet authorities have begun publishing the country's first list of job vacancies, the Kremlin's novel equivalent of the West's "situations vacant" columns.

The appearance of the list follows an official prediction from Mr Leonid Kostin, the deputy head of the state labour committee, that up to 16 million people could lose their jobs by the turn of the century

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About 60,000 employees at Moscow-based ministries — some 50 per cent of their staff — face the prospect of redundancy by 1990.

Employees under threat will be informed about other jobs available and prospective sal-

aries in the new bulletin. In addition, a network of employment exchanges is being created to deal with personal inquiries and unemployment benefits will be established.

Despite repeated pledges by the Kremlin that employment will never become a problem on the Western scale, Moscovites are showing concern at the prospect of joblessness. According to Western diplomats, this is stiffening conservative resistance to reform.

*Moskovskaya Pravda* reported that the job bulletin would soon go on sale in the

city's hundreds of *mosgovopros* (state information) kiosks. "In other words, effective measures are being taken to provide personnel dismissed as a result of reorganizations and cuts with adequate work," it stated.

Although the initial burst will be felt by the white-collar sector, the paper made clear that it would soon spread to the shop floor. It said that a bulletin giving job vacancies for blue-collar workers in the industrial and service sector was being prepared.

According to official figures, the Kremlin intends by the

year 2000 to reduce the number working in industry from 52 per cent of the total workforce to between 40 and 45 per cent, and to increase the service sector from 27 to 35 per cent.

"The process of redistribution of labour will also take place inside the industries and even inside separate enterprises," *Tass* reported. "The shift of workforce will make it possible to introduce second and third shifts, to set up services in charge of plant reconstruction, and teams to repair flats of workmates. There are also plans to set up

موسكو



# East Germans free dissidents to fall in line with glasnost

From Richard Bassett, East Berlin

In a surprise about-turn aimed at heading off the escalating conflict between State and Church, the East German authorities announced yesterday that all those arrested in connection with disturbances last month in East Berlin would be freed by Sunday.

One of those in prison, Frau Vera Wollenberger, was reported to have been freed last night. Herr Wolfgang Vogel, the lawyer and trusted adviser of the East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker, told journalists yesterday that the 20 young East Berliners, some of whom were sentenced to imprisonment only two days ago, would be given permission to leave the country if they wished.

All those in prison had taken part in or had attempted to join an official parade on January 17 marking the deaths of two German communists. Most have no desire to leave East Germany.

Unconfirmed reports that two of them — the songwriter Stephan Krawczyk and his wife, Freya Klier, the theatre producer, together with their 12-year-old daughter, Nadia, were already in West Ger-

many — were greeted by friends with dismay.

Herr Krawczyk is very much the symbol of the different strands of extra-state activity which have drawn together in East Germany during the past few weeks. By expelling him to West Germany, the authorities have been able to buy themselves breathing space.

By releasing his fellow prisoners even though they will remain in East Berlin, the Government seems to have been motivated by a number of considerations. It has prevented the arrests becoming an unwelcome focus for all dissident activity both within and without the Church. It has also avoided jeopardizing after 10 years of peaceful relations with the Church a useful *modus vivendi* constructed largely on Herr Honecker's own initiative.

Moreover, releasing the prisoners enables the East Germans to avoid being branded as the country out of step with Mr Gorbachev's wind of *glasnost* in Eastern Europe. It has also helped avoid what looked like, as late as yesterday, a rapid deterioration in East Germany's relations with West Germany.

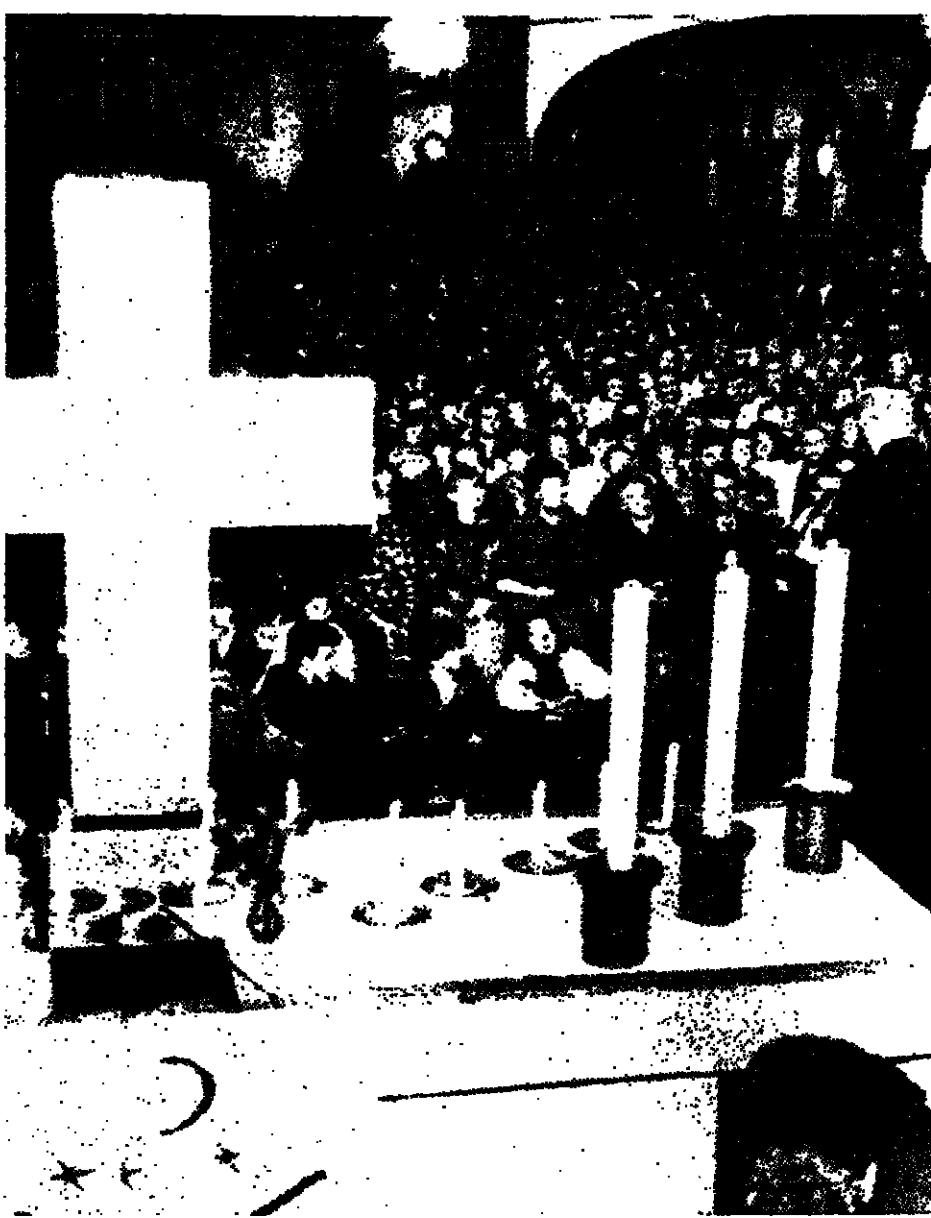
It is significant that yesterday's decision followed talks between Herr Vogel and the West German state secretary. Their talks have been motivated partly by the trials in the wake of which East Germany's official press had become increasingly hostile towards Bonn.

Irrespective of these West German considerations however the decision also reflects the widespread fear in East Germany that the situation could easily have got out of control.

On Monday night, more than 2,000 young East Berliners attended a Mass in the church of St Bartholomew to offer up prayers for those in prison. The service was echoed on a smaller scale throughout the country, especially in the cities of Dresden, Leipzig, and Jena.

In virtually every church, priests reaffirmed in sermons that those in prison were "neither spies nor agents of West Germany", as had been alleged by the authorities.

Church activists late on Monday night insisted that the trials had been an attempt to brand their activities as criminal.



East Berliners packing the church of St Bartholomew at the Mass for the detained dissidents. Similar services were held at churches throughout East Germany.

## Ancient cures on show for Prince

From Our Correspondent Sydney

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday discovered ancient aboriginal cures for modern illnesses on the final stage of their bicentennial tour of Australia in Crocodile Dundee country.

After a four-hour flight from Sydney to the Northern Territory, they met leaders of Australia's aboriginal community who are co-operating in a project to document medicinal secrets that date back 40,000 years on the use of plants, fruits, trees and animal products.

The royal couple, visiting the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Darwin, heard how powder from termite mounds can stop diarrhoea, how acacia plants can be used to remove warts, and how the favourite food of koalas — eucalyptus — can treat colds.

Earlier, at her last engagement in Sydney, the Princess was at her most relaxed on a visit to a Barnardo's day-care centre.

One of the girls, Trudi, aged five, startled the Princess by taking a running jump into her arms and then for several minutes clinging on and refusing to let go.

The Princess said: "It's just heaven being back with children again."

## Noreiga facing charge in Miami

From Christopher Thomas Washington

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the military strongman of Panama, is about to be indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami for links to the multi-billion-dollar Latin American drug trade. Federal prosecutors in the state said yesterday.

A tide of allegations against General Noriega has created enormous tensions between Panama and the United States, which has its vital important Southern Command based there.

The State Department is now openly pressing General Noriega to step down and clear the way for a democratic government.

The strains intensified yesterday with a string of detailed allegations against General Noriega by Senator José Blandon, who was Panama's consul general in New York until he was dismissed last month. He testified for five hours before the grand jury in Miami last week.

Senator Blandon said in a long interview with *The Washington Post*, published yesterday, that General Noriega had obtained pay-offs and had hidden profits of millions of dollars for himself and a group of Panamanian military and civilian associates by selling government services.

## 500 years in South Africa

### Botha revelling in white pageantry

From Michael Hornsby, Mossel Bay, South Africa

This picturesque seaside resort and fishing town on the Cape south coast will be the venue today for the first of several pageantry-filled celebrations marking milestones in the white history of South Africa.

President Botha will be on hand to greet a replica of the ship in which the Portuguese explorer, Bartolomeu Dias, rounded the Cape of Good Hope and became the first European to set foot on South African soil when he landed here exactly 500 years ago.

This year also holds the 150th anniversary of the Great Trek, an event embedded in the folk memory of Afrikaners, and the 300th anniversary of the arrival at the Cape of the first French Huguenots, whose descendants are an important strand in the make-up of the dominant white tribe.

Coincidentally, 1988 also marks the completion of 40 years of uninterrupted National Party rule and 10 years of rule by Mr Botha, first as Prime Minister and then, from 1984, as executive President.

Mr Botha's wish to preside over these momentous commemorations is said to have played no small part in his

of himself and the National Party.

The most emotive anniversary is that marking the Great Trek, the ex-wagon migration by Boers and their families and coloured servants into the then unknown interior of the country, which began in the late 1830s.

Over 10 years about 14,000 people joined the trek. The *voortrekkers*, as they are now known, were revolting against British rule in the Cape and against the abolition of slavery.

Embellished by nationalist historians, the Great Trek and the famous victory over the Zulus at the Battle of Blood River in 1838 came to assume almost mythical proportions, symbolizing the Afrikaners' determination to preserve their identity and independence at any cost.

Mindful, perhaps, that he is now trying to pitch his political appeal at English and Afrikaner whites, as well as at moderate blacks, Mr Botha had hoped to preside over a fairly restrained commemoration at the bunker-like Voortrekker Monument on a hill outside Pretoria.

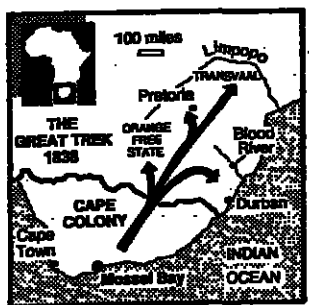
But a coalition of extreme right-wing groups, including the breakaway Conservative Party of Dr Andries Treurnicht, is planning to stage its own simulation of the trek, with Afrikaners dressing in period costume and driving ox-wagons over the routes followed by their forebears.

It was just such a restaging of the trek in 1938, on the occasion of its centenary, that gave a powerful emotional charge to the swelling forces of Afrikaner nationalism, and helped the National Party to oust the anglophile General Smuts in 1948.

Dr Treurnicht and his colleagues may be hoping that if their celebrations are well attended they will pave the way for a right-wing advance in municipal elections next October, and in a general election which must be held before the end of next year unless the Constitution is amended.

At the same time, revisionist Afrikaner historians are busy debunking the myths surrounding the trek. One recently declared that many of the *voortrekker* leaders were "egotists, sought honour for themselves and exaggerated their role in events".

The Huguenot celebrations, set for April, have so far been spared political controversy. No more than a few hundred Huguenots ever came to South Africa, and they were quickly absorbed into the mainly Dutch-speaking Afrikaner community. But many famous Afrikaner names — Malan, Malherbe, Du Toit and Du Plessis — still betray their French origin.



rejection of suggestions that, at the age of 72, he ought to be thinking of retirement.

The appropriateness of the celebrations, which reflect faithfully the Eurocentric bias of the history books on which whites are still reared, has been questioned at a time when Pretoria claims to want negotiation with the leaders of the country's disenfranchised black majority.

Leaders of the coloured community, the mixed-blood South Africans whose distant ancestors include the Hottentot people Dias met when he landed here, are boycotting the Mossel Bay festivities.

Among their reasons is the continued segregation of the town's benches, which is being relaxed to permit people of all races to attend the Dias ceremonies but will be reimposed afterwards.

It is, however, not only coloureds and blacks who are critical. At a time of unusual ferment and division among Afrikaners, there are many who resent what they see as an attempt by Mr Botha to exploit the heritage of the *volk* (people) for the greater glory

## Doubts on Cuban move

Johannesburg — The South African Government yesterday reacted with scepticism to Washington claims that it has persuaded Angola and Cuba to agree to the total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angolan territory (Ray Kennedy writes).

In part the acceptance came during talks in Luanda last week between Mr Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State, and Angolan and Cuban officials. The Cu-

ban pull-out is crucial to the implementation of the United Nations independence plan for Namibia. Pretoria insists it will not withdraw from Namibia as long as foreign forces remain in Angola.

Meanwhile, three black women have been murdered in continuing factional violence in the area of Pietermaritzburg in Natal, police reported yesterday. Two were stabbed and one was burned to death, bringing to 13 the toll in the area in two days.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP



# Italy's reformed terrorists settle down into a quiet life

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Roberto Vitelli's shopping bags contained a few automatic pistols, still warm from the bank raid, and wads of even hotter, neatly-wrapped lire notes. There was time for a coffee before the blue long-distance coach left Viterbo and so Vitelli and his three friends stood at the counter, glancing out of the window, talking a little too loudly, anxious to get back to a safe house in Rome.

When the two middle-aged carabinieri strode in and

**● The events of 1968 were a kind of passage to democracy ●**

asked the group to open the bags the terrorists drew their guns, tried briefly to bargain, and then let loose; a sprinkling of glass, two more bodies closer to the revolution.

"I was scared, of course," Vitelli says. Of course, of course. Nowadays he drinks his coffee in one of two restaurants authorized by the police. He does not take sugar. He does not kill people.

Vitelli looks, behaves and is in every respect a pleasant man, a young-looking 32 in a smart pullover, whose eyes mist over when he thinks of his younger sister. He is serving the kind of sentence that was common enough in the Red Brigades' era: life plus 30 years. With full remission,

he should be out in the year 2003.

Vitelli, the erstwhile member of *Prima Linea* (Front Line), one of the key terrorist factions, takes the 511 bus from Rebibbia prison to the run-down offices of *New Times*, a small ecumenical magazine. He works until one o'clock — he is not allowed to leave the office during this time — then goes to the restaurant, returns at four, writes until the evening and rushes to catch the bus back to jail in time for roll call. In addition to his work, he is allowed 45 days' holiday a year from the maximum-security prison.

These privileges are now extended to about 40 terrorists who have "dissociated" themselves from violence. They and the hundreds of others who were rounded up in the 1970s and 1980s are waiting for more: for an amnesty that will bring them back into society.

As in West Germany and France, there is a lively debate about how to digest the terrorist era: in Italy, the worst affected (terrorists of the right and left caused the death of 409 people between 1968 and 1983), it is at its most potent.

A recent opinion poll in the *Europeo* magazine revealed that 66 per cent of those questioned did not agree with a general amnesty for former terrorists, 19 per cent did agree, and 15 per cent did not have an opinion. Asked if they feared another period of vi-



Roberto Vitelli, left, and Ugo Melchionda: 'We still want to work out ways of protecting the underdogs'.

olence, 73 per cent said they did, 23 per cent did not, and 4 per cent did not have an opinion.

Ugo Melchionda, serving 16 years for activities in the Workers' Power movement (wounding a guard in a jewellery raid, blowing up a government computer, taking part in a prison revolt and membership of a terrorist organization), has a similar lifestyle to that of his friend Vitelli. He goes to a computer

workshop most days of the week and, with Vitelli, he has worked out a scheme that would teach former terrorists how to use new technology.

I met them first at the offices of *New Times*, where Vitelli is working on an article about Catholic and Protestant attitudes towards 1968, the year Italian universities were set aflame by disgruntled youngsters. The murder of Aldo Moro, the former Christian Democrat Prime Minister

kidnapped by the Red Brigades, came in 1978. And in 1983 they are drinking coffee on day-release from prison.

"You have to understand that 1968 was a kind of passage to democracy for Italy," Vitelli says, adjusting his spectacles. "Britain and France already had their revolutions centuries before, which for better or worse resolved the question of workers' rights. But in Italy the workers were decades

behind the rest of Europe, earning nothing.

"On top of this there was the repressed role of women and a class-ridden education system. Before 1968 no worker's child went to the classical grammar school — true, it was free, but most could not afford to buy the books, nor could the family do without the extra pair of hands."

Vitelli, whose father was a

stonemason, and Melchionda, whose parents are clerics, are in agreement. Melchionda, a swarthy, clever southerner from Potenza, says: "I was 12 at the time (of 1968) and I remember trying to explain it to my parents who were voting Communists, trying to explain why I, as a schoolboy, was attempting to change the system and challenge the teachers. A policeman came round to complain and they were mad at me."

The 1970s, the "years of lead", were with the exception

**● I was a schoolboy attempting to change the system ●**

of a few gurus, run by schoolboys or students at the beginning of their university courses. Vitelli was reading art history in Rome, Melchionda medicine in Bologna, but neither completed his studies.

They see their terrorist years as an extension (regretted now but still logical) of an essentially correct diagnosis. "It was a time of great armed struggle," Vitelli said, "in the Italian tradition of revolution and resistance. Remember that in the 1970s there was still a strong fascist tendency and it had to be fought."

Melchionda: "I thought there could be a revolution in the Mediterranean, not a classic Marxist revolution, but a specifically southern revolt, involving Italy, Greece, Spain and the PLO."

Moro's kidnap and murder was a watershed. Hundreds of people were rounded up and the police broke the back of the terrorist movement. The Red Brigades continued to murder, but more and more members turned state's evidence. The Front Line resented and abandoned its list of proposed assassinations, while Workers' Power — which had always claimed that its killings were accidental — now tried to avoid guns altogether. "I shot to wound," says Melchionda of his jewellery raid, and smiles charmingly.

The Moro case also sowed

the ideas of conspiracy; that somebody must have been behind Italian terrorism. Moro was, at the time of his kidnap, arguing for a full-scale alliance with the Communists. Powerful forces may have directed funds to the Red Brigades and other terrorist groups in order to stop him in his tracks; that, at least, is the conspiracy theory.

In any case, the number of bank raids indicates that money was very short. It was during raids that most of the killing was done, not in the brutal, absurd "people's tribunals" that executed dozens of judges and policemen. The transition from revolutionary role-playing to murder is a fundamental one; most terrorists had not even admitted a moral dimension to their actions before they killed.

Vitelli and Melchionda say that the prison culture has eroded the old divisions between the terrorist groups. Some terrorists have settled down to a kind of sedate, slippered life that they once despised in their parents.

"We have talked ourselves out," says Melchionda, "there has been nothing else to do for the last 10 years."

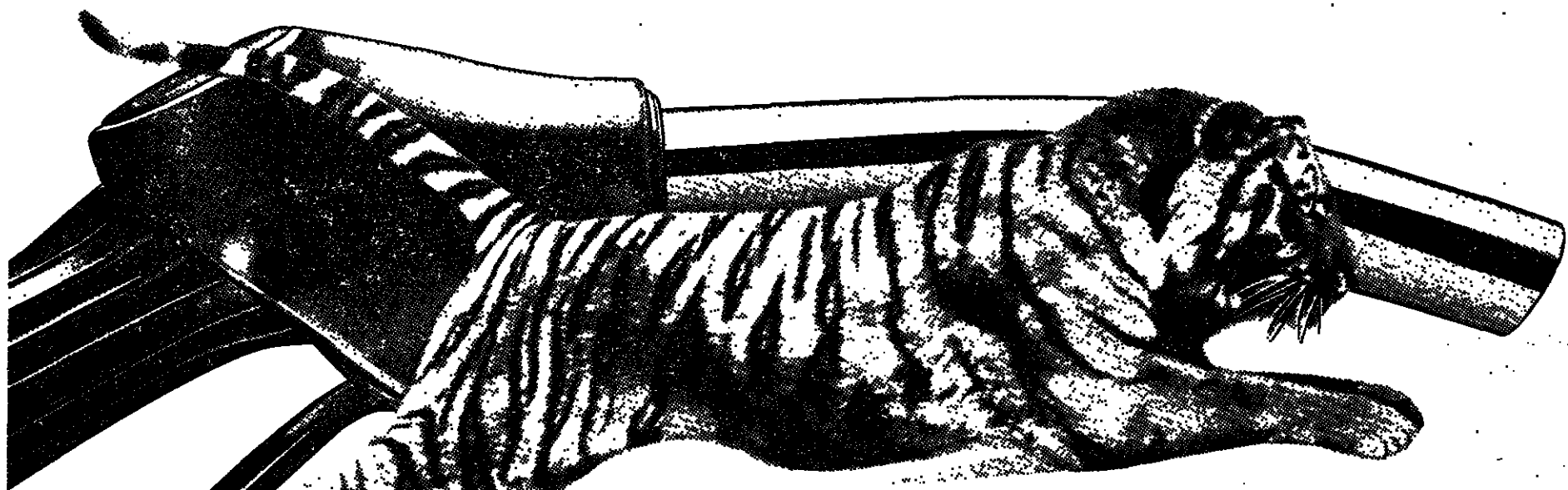
Most of those in jail are now entirely apolitical. If given an amnesty, they will probably

**● We have talked ourselves out in the last 10 years ●**

return to their studies and become Porsche-driving lawyers, doctors and journalists. Vitelli and Melchionda, however — though they have dissociated themselves from terrorism — never turned state's evidence and, in their way, still have political ambitions. They want to campaign for pollution controls, more freedom in the education and prison systems.

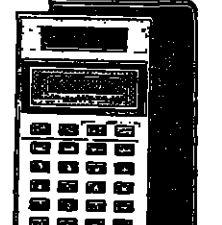

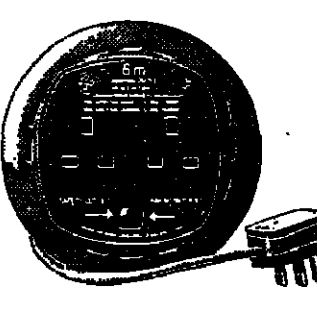
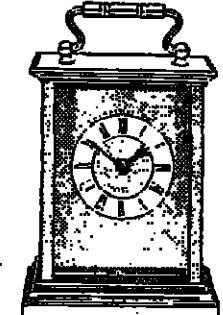
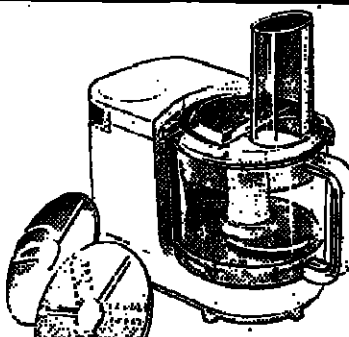
The two 32-year-olds are now, they say, aligned to the social democracy of West Germany or Sweden, or indeed the British Labour Party. But will the Italian political system be able to welcome back its terrorist prodigals?

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## Koivisto back by 48% 'landslide'

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

President Koivisto has ensured his re-election for a second six-year term by winning 47.9 per cent of the popular vote and 144 of the 301 members of the Council of Electors in Finland's elections on Sunday and Monday. But he fell short of the 50 per cent of the popular vote needed for an outright win, and conceded that he was "slightly disappointed" with the results.

His victory was, however, a landslide in a multi-party country, where even the largest parties seldom gain more than a quarter of the votes in parliamentary elections. His share of the vote was 5 per cent higher than six years ago.

President Koivisto's re-election at the Council of Electors meeting on February 15 is thus a certainty, even though he is seven short of an absolute majority. No parties have indicated that they would be willing to try to reach agreement to oust him.

The opposition conservatives, indeed, have said that they will support him in the final round.

The other clear winner in the elections was Mr Paavo Vayrynen, the Centre Party leader, who received 20.1 per cent of the direct vote against the 18.1 per cent of his arch rival, Mr Harri Holkeri, the conservative Prime Minister. These two non-socialist candidates were already fighting the 1994 presidential election rather than trying to defeat Dr Koivisto this time.

Mr Vayrynen strengthened his position considerably, and will be able to make life difficult for Mr Holkeri's coalition Government.

The Council of Electors will vote three times if necessary. The final choice will be made in the third round between the two strongest candidates, but it is quite possible that Dr Koivisto will receive the seven extra votes needed in the first vote.

### Letter from Paris

## Métro magnates caught on hop

Although it remains untested, I have a theory that a commuter could enter the Métro stark naked and emerge patently clad from head to foot by the enterprising merchants of subterranean Paris. No danger of going hungry en route, either, with everything from fresh fruit and veg. to delicious Moroccan couscous on offer.

As for entertainment, how about a six-piece combo playing thunderous "afro-jazz", Mozart from a trio in evening dress, a troupe of acrobats, a comically incompetent escapist? To an old hand on the London Tube, the richness and diversity of life beneath the Parisian cobbles is a constant delight.

Coming up for air at the Opéra station near *The Times* office, I can usually reckon on passing half-a-dozen makeshift stalls offering pineapples, bananas and oranges, excellent cakes, handmade leatherwork, racks of suits and ties, and fashionable shoes by the hundred.

Since many of them have neglected to obtain a permit from the RATP, which runs the Métro, stallholders are very much on the qui vive for the approach of authority. It is quite a sight, believe me, to watch 60 summer dresses or half a dozen crates of kiwi fruit disappear in a flash into bulging but innocent-looking suitcases.

Naturally, the RATP takes a dim view of such goings-on, if only because it derives a handsome revenue from the traders it licenses to operate in

the Métro. The florist at my local station was complaining the other day that her trade suffered increasingly from the "types" who home in on potential customers as soon as they step off a train.

In an attempt to reduce this flourishing commerce *à la servette* (on the hop), the masters of the Métro have just decreed that from next week, for reasons of "hygiene", no more fruit and vegetables can be sold underground. Inevitably, this is going to hit very hard at the small community of cheerful north Africans, licensed and otherwise, who seem to have cornered this side of the business.

As their spokesman, M el-Ayed, remarked in the newspaper *Libération* the other day, the stalls are greatly appreciated by Parisians, who pick up a bag of ripe avocados on the way home to dinner. "And with so much unemployment around, this sort of work at least gives people a chance to retain their dignity," he observed.

Apart from which, the bustling trade provides a sense of security, not to mention an invaluable source of directions, for a great many passengers.

The picture is not all gloom, however, for Métro travellers. At the busy Porte Maillot station it is now possible to buy a tolerably fresh loaf of French bread from an automatic dispenser. The sale of wine, alas, remains strictly prohibited.

Philip Jacobson



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## SPECTRUM

# Medicine for the managers

Money lies at the root of the hospital crisis, but how well is the existing NHS budget spent? Jill Sherman and William Greaves asked hospital managers about the daily financial juggling act

Barbara Young came into the world just three days after the birth of the National Health Service. Her mother, unaware of the social revolution which was to grace the last hours of her pregnancy, had already booked a bed in the fee-paying clinic. "So I suppose that makes me one of the last private babies to be born into the working classes," she says with an irrepressibly cheerful grin.

Both Young and the NHS are now approaching their 40th birthday, and today she is one of its 192 new-look district managers who were brought in five years ago to replace its old network of conscientious but committee-bound administrators. And, last summer, when she became the first woman president in the history of the Institute of Health Service Management, she didn't need any extra-sensory perception to know that her near-twin was headed for a crisis.

It is merely the speed of the NHS's decline into what many pessimists have already diagnosed as terminal sickness which has caught the Institute unaware.

"We are making our own inquiry into what has happened and how it can be put right," she says. "I announced it in June, we began it in September and we plan to come out with our recommendations in May. Now all hell's let loose and I'm worried that ill-researched and ill-thought-through decisions will have been made in the meantime."

But does the new breed of all-powerful district managers, over whose institute Young presides, have any right to be judge at its own inquest? Has it succeeded in replacing bureaucracy with boardroom efficiency, or have the sins of the old administration been visited upon its successors? Can business methods and commercial accountability ever share beds with the altruistic ideals of free health? In short, how effectively are the new NHS managers managing?

The right wing of the political spectrum believes them to be far too unenterprising and dependent on the government cheque book. Where, it demands, are the shopping precincts in hospital foyers and the sponsors with their names emblazoned over bandages and across surgeons' chests? And the left wing, scarcely surprisingly, accuses them of vulgar commercialism in the

way they are selling the democratic concept of the health service down the river.

"So long as we are annoying them both equally I am pretty sure we're on the right lines. With so much contentious nonsense flying around, we must be the small, still voice of reason," says Miss Young, who combines the Institute presidency with her daily job as general manager of London's Paddington and North Kensington Health Authority — comprising the world-famous St Mary's Hospital and the third most socially deprived district in Britain.

Since moving to Paddington five years ago from Haringey, where she was district administrator, her self-styled "bullying tactics" have produced cost savings of an average £1 million a year and a revenue of £2 million a year from private and overseas patients, as well as generating £2.6 million for funding such projects as an Aids programme and continued the reduction in the number of hospital beds from nine to five.

Every year the district spends £4 million on new buildings or refurbishment, treats 29,000 in-patients and 107,000 accident or emergency cases, and screens and

over responsibility for millions of mentally ill, chronically sick and handicapped people who currently come under NHS care.

Miss Young agrees that many councils would be ideally placed to administer such community care but has one serious reservation: "Those areas in which the need is greatest are exactly the ones whose local authorities are most severely rate-capped."

Why they are rate-capped is no concern of ours — the fact is they will have difficulty in finding the resources and people will suffer."

Nor is she happy with the philosophy, expressed last week by junior health minister, Edwina Currie, that the nation's health would be best served on a two-tier system, with those who could afford it turning to private insurance and the NHS looking after the remainder. "Look at the system in the United States," she says, "and you discover that one of the things that happens is that the poor and the chronically sick get a bum deal."

"Competition is not interested in areas where the potential is low and there are now 40 million people in the States who don't have access to a decent health service. I don't think people in this country really want to see a two-tier system."



Prescription for a better service: Barbara Young, general manager of the Paddington health authority, has cut costs and raised revenue

## Initiative is not enough

One man who epitomizes the new spirit of commercial adventure within the NHS is ironically a one-time Labour councillor. Now describing himself as a political agnostic, Dr Ken Grant is district general manager of City and Hackney Health Authority, which includes St Bartholomew's Hospital, and in the past year has introduced a succession of controversial income-generating innovations.

In that time he has set up two *in vitro* fertilization clinics with the private sector, shared medical equipment with a private hospital, started charging other authorities for services, and opened a fee-paying breast cancer clinic to screen women aged over 40 in the City.

"We are now building up a relationship with a private hospital so we can obtain funds when our doctors refer business there," says Grant, whose scheme to introduce sponsored operations at Barts has so far failed to attract the

kind of dynamic managers who run major companies — and who recommended the switch from district administrators to managers — believes that the quality of NHS management today is "quite good — but patchy".

There are enough examples of well-run hospitals to show what can be done, he says, and "a handful" of managers he would be happy to have with him at Sainsbury's. Out of 192 districts in the country, that sounds ominously like damnation with faint praise.

Sir Roy, who was called in by Mrs Thatcher in 1983 to introduce into the NHS the

involvement of local companies. "We're being held back because I don't have enough time and so I'm looking to employ someone specifically to work on this area of marketing."

Compared with a budget of more than £80 million, however, is even an income of £1 million from such private enterprise really worth the trouble? "Of course it is. You've got to invest in order to save and if I can raise £1 million by spending £100,000 that's got to make sense."

"But let's get things into perspective. Profit in the private sector is about five per cent of turnover. At the present rate, we are looking at a deficit of £20 million on a budget of £90 million in 1991. To recover that we would have to be doing £800 million worth of business, which is about half of the whole UK private market. We can improve things by our own efforts but we can't save the health service that way."

On this, at least, Miss Young is totally in agreement. "Compared with other European countries our salaries for medical and non-medical staff are very low," she says. "If we are going to have a National

Health Service which has the interest of the public at heart, there have got to be incentives so that doctors and other professional staff are motivated to provide it.

"Of course we can, and must, look at ways in which we can generate income. Doing deals with the private sector — commercial sponsors, Kentucky Fried Chicken in the front hall, Adidas heart transplants, that kind of thing — is all very well if they can be achieved without diverting staff from their main purpose."

"We even discussed asking Virgin Atlantic to sponsor our nurses' training."

"If we're lucky, in this district we'll make £1 million a year from commercial methods. But out of a budget of £80 million, that isn't going to solve the problems of the health service. Something as fundamental as health shouldn't really have to depend on other people's generosity."

So are there no obvious ways in which she could improve the efficiency of the district? "There is still too much bureaucracy at my level and above. Twenty per cent of my work is not about running my health district but simply being accountable. It's hard to be efficient when you have to spend so much time telling people how efficient you are!"

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## Fooled by a freak

The 'hurricane' caught the Met Office cold, but will the inquest clear the air?

It was an ill wind that blew the British Met Office no good at all last October. In a country obsessed with the weather, failing to predict the worst storm in centuries was a blunder of major proportions. The fact that European weather centres had put out warnings well in advance meant the disaster encompassed national pride as well as life and property.

On the night of October 15/16 1987, a force 11 "violent storm" with gusts of hurricane strength, struck Britain. It caused, in the words of Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, "the most widespread night of disaster in the South-east of England since 1945".

The final toll was 19 people killed, at least 15 million trees destroyed and hundreds of millions of pounds worth of damage. An immediate inquiry was launched by the Government into why the Meteorological Office at Bracknell in Berkshire had failed to predict the storm and give warnings.

The results of that internal inquiry, whose findings have been vetted by two independent scientists, are due to be published later this month.

What the inquiry will make clear is that, despite the technology now available to the meteorological offices of the world, if a computer is not given enough information, it cannot be blamed when it comes up with diff answers.

Britain has thousands of miles of open sea between it and North America, where the seeds of our weather are sown. "Observations over sea areas are something we're desperately short of," says Dr Bob Harwood of Edinburgh University's Department of Meteorology.

Satellites are being used to cover the northern Atlantic, but most go blind when the clouds close in. More sophisticated satellites are being developed "but it'll be a long time before such technology is proven," says Harwood. Old-fashioned weather-ships can operate come rain or shine. However, economies have reduced Britain's fleet to just one, Ocean Ship Lima, stationed in the Atlantic.

Even before the report comes out, the Met Office has taken action to improve its predictions. Last month it bought a £5 million computer which is eight times more powerful than its current machine and capable of almost 3,500 million operations a second.

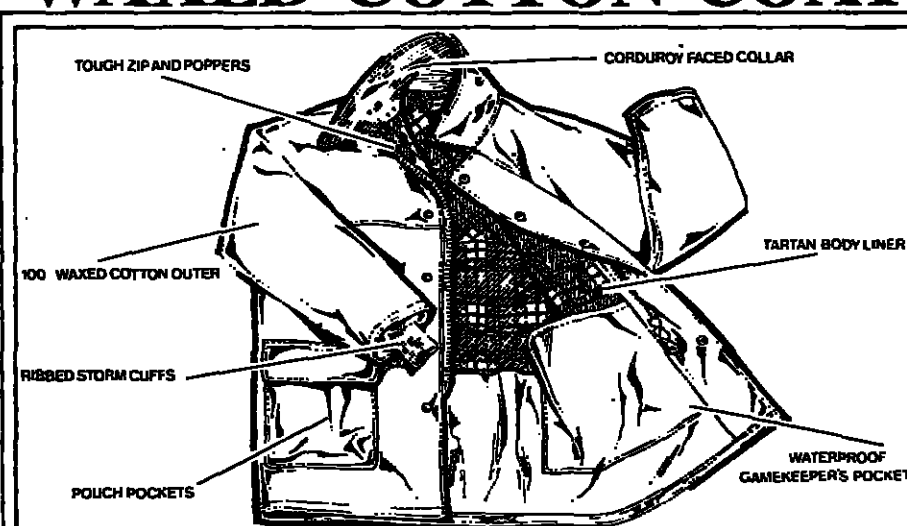
Even so, Professor Robert Pearce of Reading University, one of the two outside referees of the forthcoming report, says there is no substitute for being better informed. "Yes, you do get better predictions by using a smaller grid, but you still need weather stations in the right place."

But Pearce warns that rare phenomena are always going to be difficult to deal with. The Great Storm was extraordinary capricious, changing direction and stopping altogether at one point, while it gathered its strength for the final onslaught. A freak rise in temperature at 10pm on the 15th, producing the warmest night of the week, further confounded the predictions.

"The more extreme the event, the more difficult it is to predict," says Pearce. "That is one of the crosses the Met Office will have to bear."

Robert Matthews

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## Shell-fruit to all of them

### NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Philip Howard

It is a noble ambition to improve the jargon of the European Community, as CEEG (Consumers in the European Community Group) and ERIC (European Research into Consumer Affairs) have just announced they intend to do. It is indeed worthy of much improvement. Though I do not see how FOFTA (Proliferation of Tiresome Acronyms) helps their case. As part of the Community's People's Europe (PE) initiative they note that the Day of Judgement (DJ) is going to be more confusing than Noah's cattle drive, since the EC classifies both sheep and goats as sheep. In EuroSpeak, nuts are classified as shell-fruit, flowers are called non-edible vegetables, and cows are adult bovine animals (so are buffalo).

The official EuroDefinition is that milk "shall mean exclusively the mammary secretion obtained from one or more milkings without either addition thereto or extraction therefrom".

Two cheers for them. Plain English is usually preferable to the other sort; and we must all try to dock our speech, and writing of prolixities, simplify and clarify, and say precisely what we mean, and not a word more or less. But it is populist rubbish to pretend that everything (Einstein's Theory of Relativity, *Flanagans Wake*, pretty well any Act of Parliament or the European Community) can be rewritten in language that the average punter can understand.

Reading European Community documents is always going to be a masochistic, minority



sport. MEPs, press officers and journeymen are there to interpret and explain what they mean to the rest of us. *C'est leur métier.*

Like most old words, jargon has many imbricated meanings. When it first came into English from Old French in Chaucer, it meant the twittering of birds. Then it gradually came to mean unintelligible and ugly-sounding language, like, for example, the jargon of structuralists. Then it came to mean general obfuscation, the use of long words to show off or to hide the poverty or absence of meaning, pretentiousness, circumlocution, and all padder.

Over the centuries it has acquired other meanings also. Specialists such as brain surgeons, computer hackers, linguistic philosophers and Eurocrats inevitably develop jargons to communicate rapidly with other specialists in a kind of professional shorthand. It is a natural process.

If we insisted that everything that specialists said and wrote be translated into plain, one-syllable English that the man waiting interminably for

the No. 27 bus could understand, they would never get anything done. If you are legislating, you are not writing for the average man. You are writing as exactly as a lawyer to take into account every conceivable possibility and loophole that might let something or someone through.

It is a jargon in the good sense. So you write equine quadruped instead of horse in case some wide gargon from Marselles starts erasing Eurocity by turning Shetland ponies or zebras into salami without paying horse tax. And you classify flowers as non-edible vegetables to prevent globe artichokes or Spanish onions being moved around tax-free by declaring them as flowers.

The same mistaken, anti-elitist populism is at the heart of the Folio literary dinner on tomorrow, when Michael Foot will propose and Fay Weldon oppose the motion, "It is no use pretending that in an age like our own good literature can have any genuine popularity."

As in all good debating motions, there are a lot of value words in there. It all depends on what you mean by

good, literature, genuine, and popularity. And I am not sure what we mean by an age like our own, which in its attitude to "good literature" is much like all the previous ages.

This may sound elitist, and even Fogeyish. But the truth is that what is usually meant by good literature, e.g. *King Lear* or *Andean*, Anthony Burgess or Iris Murdoch, is always going to have a tiny readership compared with simple-minded pop written by Catherine Cookson or Jeffrey Archer.

Of course popular genres like crime and romance can be brilliantly as well as badly done (P.D. James, *Georgie Heyer*, Tony Price). But the demand that everybody should be able to understand and enjoy everything written is as absurd as demanding that everybody should be able to swim the Channel.

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## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1479

ACROSS  
1 Make useless (8)  
5 Rucketer (8)  
9 Wiped out (7)  
10 Present for sale (5)  
11 Little cuts (5)  
12 Lift with effort (5)  
13 Chalico (5)  
15 Gong (5)  
16 Forearm bones (5)  
18 Stares (5)  
20 Tiddly (5)  
21 Acrobat's bar (7)  
23 Not any (4)  
24 Evening star (8)

DOWN  
1 Nasty smell (6)  
2 Adverse (8)  
3 Can (3)  
4 Garden party, picnic (4,9)  
6 Light pastry (4)  
7 Highest point (6)  
8 Spicy Arab dish (8)  
11 Charles II's mistress (4,4)  
14 "Sing at Bay" artist (8)  
15 "Paradise Lost" author (6)  
17 Over-indulgence (6)  
19 Twist (4)  
22 Cleopatra's snake (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1478  
ACROSS: 1 Tragic 5 Disown 8 Hue 9 Nuclei 10 Nougat 11 Rhea 12 Demijohn 14 Robertson 18 Terrapin 19 Kick 21 Candid 23 Blazon 24 Gnu 25 Vesray 26 System  
DOWN: 2 Rough 3 Goida Meir 4 Chindit 5 Denim 6 Sou 7 Weir 8 John Keats 15 Overawe 16 Omnibus 18 Poley 20 Clove 22 Dot



# Deadlock for wedlock?



Part 3  
The challenge  
of change

Some say that if marriage is to endure, it will do so only with support. But must we change, or must it? And is marriage our best option? Julia Orange reports

If marriage were a motor car, it would have been banned by now. Its safety record is appalling — 170,000 breakdowns annually according to one marriage expert with a yearly "repair" bill to the nation of £2 billion. Most of us spend a great deal of energy trying to keep it on the road but what are its chances past the year 2000?

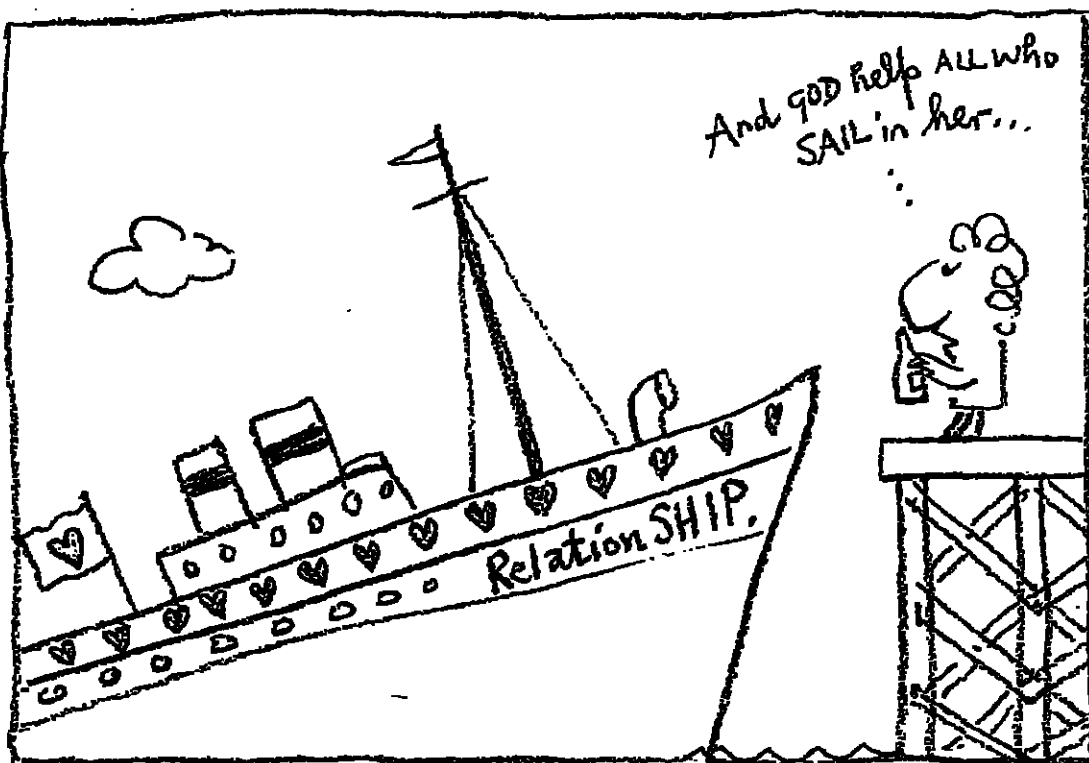
At first glance, not good. Last month an annual statistical report, innocently entitled *Social Trends* (published by HM Stationery Office) spelt it out: the UK has now one of the highest divorce rates in Western Europe — one in three current marriages will end in divorce; the number of households consisting of a single person has risen since 1951 from one in 10 to almost one in four; and illegitimacy is soaring (one in five births are now illegitimate). One of the difficulties of predicting the future of marriage, says Christopher Clulow, who is chairman of the Institute of Marital Studies at the Tavistock Centre, "is that marriage is both a social institution and a personal relationship and at a time of great social change all kinds of anomalies are built into it. How for instance to assess the impact of Aids? Or the demographers who forecast an increase of elderly couples which will be an added

strain to modern marriages." One thing is clear, the old style family saloon, father at the wheel and his wife and children behind, will be less and less popular.

Dr Jack Dominian, who heads the Marriage Research Centre at the Middlesex Hospital, calls marital breakdown "a private agony and a public cost". He has made an approximate calculation of the cost of marital breakdown in Britain — taking in legal advice, supplementary benefits to the divorced and separated, children in care, the cost to the health service and to industry — that gives the figure of £2 billion. He laments the fact that we spend millions of pounds in picking up the pieces, and "nothing like enough into research into why marriages go wrong".

Dominian, who has been working in this field for 30 years, rejects the school of thought which says that we all expect too much from modern marriage, and that our present divorce statistics are the fault of wicked western society. "If marriage is to have a future," he says, "we must accept that we cannot put the clock back."

"We've had 80 years of Freud, 20 years or so of Masters and Johnson and whether we like it or not,



people do expect good sex and intelligence and emotional input to be part of the marriage package. Neither can we go back to the days when wives were well-behaved chattels." And yet he believes marriage "is still the best chance of human happiness most of us have".

But what is becoming clearer is that we are entering the era of the DIY marriage, or at least the era of the think-for-yourself one. No single model fits the unique and often contradictory demands of the modern couple. These choices can induce a kind of agoraphobia, a longing for the dictates of an institution. But where to turn?

Few look to the Church for guidance, and 50 per cent of marriages now take place in register offices. Even believers might feel bewildered by the Church's attempts to come to terms with modern marriage. A recent report from the Church of England Synod, *An Honourable Estate*, describes matrimony as a state "which (at best) is a living parable in which human grace gives people a glimpse of what divine grace is like". But the Church spends little on marriage guidance counselling.

Dominian, who has been married for 33 years and is a Roman Catholic, is also highly critical of his Church's stand on marital and sexual matters. "They haven't done their homework, they haven't got to grips with change, and they have operated as though their responsibility begins and ends with the marriage ceremony."

The Government may pay lip service to the glorious state of matrimony, but it also discriminates against traditional marriages, as Dame Joan Secombe, the new Tory vice-chairman with special responsibility for women, recently pointed out, by a tax system which discriminates against stay-at-home wives, in favour of wives who go out to work.

Dominian feels that ever since the 1969 Divorce Act, "which allowed marriages to dissolve because of 'irretrievable breakdown'", we have had the worst of both worlds: very flexible divorce laws and no counselling to help people to deal with them. And high divorce rates have followed.

Dominian thinks there has been a "conspiracy of silence" about how painful divorce is. "Because our society finds pain and grief hard to accept, people deny the

pain of divorce. They deny they regret taking the step, deny it has hurt their children."

His prescription for the future, if marriage is to continue, is for more money to be spent helping people while they are married, and before they are married, to learn about the sometimes harsh realities of love.

As a nation we seem neurotically private in this respect, and it can be a great help when other people admit that love can hurt and that problems are completely normal.

It is also safe to predict that in the year 2000 we will continue to experience the same logical and illogical longing to live with members of the opposite sex, to have babies and to create families. Aids will make a difference, as some couples may marry rather than try a range of partners.

Co-habitation will probably continue to be the most spontaneous reaction to the soaring divorce rate. This once-daring sin is now commonplace. (Between 1979 and 1985 the number of women unmarried but co-habiting doubled.) For those with no religious beliefs, it is a choice with much to recommend it, although one family therapist warned: "It in no way eliminates the problem of trying to live with another person — you still have to decide who peels the potatoes. You can still feel crushed when it breaks up."

What is certainly true is that it carries less weighty baggage. Great mistakes can be avoided and corrected without the agony of divorce. The tax man smiles upon it. And the law increasingly respects co-habiting couples.

"From a legal point of view," according to Marcel Berlins (co-author with Clare Dyer of *Living Together*), "long-term stable relationships can come close to being treated like married relationships. And when such relationships split, it's increasingly common — if one party can prove they have made a substantial contribution — to get a share of the house."

Another alternative to the traditional marriage is the commuter marriage such as one where the woman whose husband has been made redundant would spend four days a week working in London and go home to cook and sort socks at the weekend. Other arrangements of the future will include the two-house couple, such as Woody Allen, who lives in an apartment on one side of Central Park, while his partner, Mia Farrow, lives on the other, and Margaret Drabble, the author, who lives in her house in Hampstead, while her husband Michael Holroyd, the biographer, lives in Kensington. They reportedly see each other several times a week and for holidays and at weekends.

The nannish section of our society may dismiss such arrangements as "not proper... too expensive for most people... too bad for children", and so on, but divorce is expensive, bad for children and requires two houses, too. And if the marriage of the future is to teach us anything, it will be to keep an open mind.

## BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

### Couture in miniature

Chic British mothers despair about the lamentable choice of stylish yet practical babywear, and Betty Jackson — one of the judges of the winning designs for the Peacocks Baby Fashion Awards 1988, announced yesterday — cannot be the only woman who is, as she says, "heartily sick of Care Bears on pastel jumpsuits". The £1,000 first prize was won by Lynn Mackie, of Edinburgh School of Art, for her mustard, grey and red playwear, specifically chosen, explains Jackson, "because it didn't have clowns and rainbows all over it". She believes babywear is "becoming more sophisticated, but not a moment too soon".

Peacocks are continuing to make the contribution by offering a paper pattern for a unisex playsuit, in three sizes (1-3 years) available by post to mothers everywhere who send a cheque for £1.25 (made payable to Peacocks UK Ltd) to Dept FAP, Peacocks Paper Pattern Offer, Peacocks, Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 0EL.

### Quote me...



"Children would have ruined my relationship with William. He had to come first. People say 'Oh, when you get old there is no one to take care of you'. But I see my friends' children are too busy with their own lives to care for their parents."

Susan Walton

### Screen scene

The irrepressible Miriam Stoppard is back on our screens again on Monday with a new series, *The Miriam Stoppard Health and Beauty Show*, which covers health, fitness, weight loss — happily, no drastic dieting — and for the first time on-screen, tries to make making-up less hard to do. The video-less who can't make the 11.30am regular Monday rendezvous can still get useful hints and tips, clearly illustrated, from the book of the show (Dorling Kindersley, £5.95). All this, of course, from a woman who once confessed she feels naked without her false eyelashes. "But I only mention them once," she says.

### Pure cotton

Non-itchy clothes for sensitive skins are surprisingly hard to find, considering that 2 per cent of the British population suffers from severe eczema; many more people have eczema and other skin conditions which necessitate searching for garments which will not scratch or aggravate a rash. Cotton On is a catalogue designed to shorten the search for pure-cotton clothes free from chemical finishes, brilliant dyes or nylon trimmings — and what is more the T-shirts, swimwear, sleepwear and children's clothing look stylish, too. For a free copy of the catalogue, write to them at 29 North Clifton Street, Lytham FY8 5HW, or telephone 0253 736611.

Josephine Fairley

## It's the price you pay

Politicians frequently complain about "the tax on marriage" — the fact that many couples are better off not tying the knot officially. But a couple on a low joint income are still better off married than co-habiting under the present tax system, because together they receive larger tax allowances than they would if they were both single.

The more a couple earn the better off they will be by not being married. A married couple with a mortgage gets tax relief on the interest paid on up to £30,000 of the loan, an unmarried couple can claim this tax relief on up to £30,000 each.

The richer you are the richer you get if you stay unmarried, particularly if you have children. The unmarried higher income couple with two children qualify for the additional personal allowance paid to single parents. So if you remain single with two children your total tax saving can be more than £1,000 a year (an extra £600 tax relief on

## THE ECONOMICS OF MARRIAGE

	His personal tax allowance	Her personal tax allowance	Total tax allowances	Mortgage tax relief	Analysis
<b>HIGHER INCOME</b>					
Couple A: Married. Joint mortgage of £30,000, also earns £10,000 p.a. he earns £20,000 p.a., they have opted for separate taxation. No children	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£500	No change bar child benefit
Couple A: With two children	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£1,200	Gains £500 tax relief on mortgage
Couple B: Unmarried. Mortgage and earnings as for A. No children	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£1,200	Gains £500 tax relief on mortgage plus approximately £740 from additional personal allowances (for single parents) and child benefit
Couple B: With two children	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£1,200	Gains £500 tax relief on mortgage. Losses approximately £370 of married man's tax allowance
<b>LOWER INCOME</b>					
Couple C: Married. Joint mortgage of £30,000, she earns £7,000 p.a., he earns £10,000 p.a. No children	£3,795	£2,425	£6,220	£500	No change bar child benefit
Couple C: With two children	£3,795	£2,425	£6,220	£500	Gains £500 tax relief on mortgage. Losses approximately £370 of married man's tax allowance
Couple D: Unmarried. Mortgage and earnings as for C. No children	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£500	Gains £500 tax relief on mortgage. Plus approximately £270 from additional personal allowances (for single parents) and child benefit
Couple D: With two children	£2,425	£2,425	£4,850	£500	Gains £500 tax relief on mortgage. Plus approximately £270 from additional personal allowances (for single parents) and child benefit

Mary Lawson

## The fun of the fair

It is child's play to visit the British International Toy and Hobby Fair as a consenting adult. Everyone is as chummy as can be. But come with the actual consumer and they suspect you are up to foul play.

Winnie-the-Pooh, My Pet Monster and Marshall Braveheart were there. So were Captain Power and his arch-enemy Lord Dread. But who were these costumed characters trying to kid? The only alien life forms at the Olympia Toy Fair, which ends today, were children.

I was made to feel as welcome as an intruder from outer space for touring the toy industry's annual British showcase with two well-behaved youngsters in tow —

children wearing target waistcoats, caps or belts (Matter's Lazer Tag, Buddy L's Phaser Force II). Fearless-looking weapons emit electronic signals which blast cartoon spacecraft to bits on your television screen, thanks to the power of interactive videos (Matter's Captain Power, Ban Dai's Video Challenger).

A new generation of guns (called Buddy L's Sprat-a-tat-tat and Anker's Splatt Gun) that spray non-toxic paint, which, it is claimed, disappears in seconds from even the whitest shirt. Manufacturers can blind you with specialists' reports that white light isn't dangerous to the eyes, even when directly aimed at them — or dissertations by dry cleaners and doctors on the ephemeral and

**'Their products wouldn't stand up to much'**

properly accredited and labelled to serve as photographic models and researchers.

We were haughtily refused admission to some stands, while giant bears and whimsical beasts passed through unobserved. "They probably know their products wouldn't stand up to much fooling around," suggested one exhibitor, confident that his would.

Mind you, it was an adult show — in parts. A cardboard cut-out of Joan Collins greeted visitors at the entrance to the Design Partnership Licensing stand. "We're also a licensing agent for Joan Collins' lingerie," said a voice from among the cuddly toys and plastic trinkets. Perhaps Joan Collins can be classified as a hobby, or maybe a living doll.

There were "adult" board games with names like Orgy, Stock Market, The Stock Exchange and Megalomania, and one called Prenzid, which the

**'We're also a licensing agent for lingerie'**

edible attributes of spray paint.

Garishly coloured "slime" is a feature of many of the new, and revolting, toys. But why does everyone look away shyly when explaining that it doesn't stain the carpet or your children's insides?

The Real Ghostbusters range — supported by a cartoon series currently being shown and about to be boosted in popularity by a *Ghostbusters II* film — was undoubtedly my researchers' favourite. But that could have been partly because we were welcomed into the stand with open arms — and allowed to wallow elbow deep in slime.

The official award for the Toy Fair's Best Toy of the Year went though to Tony's Sylvanian Family — happy, harmless woodland creatures with nothing whatsoever to do with guns or gunge.

Victoria McKee

## FIRST PERSON

Ann Kent

### Why not me?

Women's liberation does not yet extend to the womb. We still tend to value ourselves according to our ability to have healthy children. Those who have handicapped or stillborn babies search their memories in an attempt to discover what it was that they could have done wrong.

This sense of injustice cuts both ways. A woman whose pregnancy fails to provide the perfect baby she hoped for, asks, "why me?" And I, who have drunk alcohol, failed to watch my diet and generally done as I pleased through three successful pregnancies, ask "why not me?"

These fires of self reproach are likely to be banked even higher, following this week's reports of embryological research carried out in Edinburgh. Matthew Kaufman, professor of anatomy at the university's medical school, says he believes alcohol can damage female eggs while they are still being stored in the ovary. He believes the resultant damage could be a principal cause of tens of thousands of miscarriages. He thinks it is one of the reasons for genetic disorders such as Down's syndrome. The only safe policy, he suggests, is for women to avoid alcohol until the childbearing years are over.

A fleet of pantechnicons would be needed to accommodate the load of guilt carried in this suggestion. Yet it has an attractive simplicity. Most of us would like to believe there is a simple way of avoiding the risk of miscarried or handicapped babies. And most of us can successfully dredge a half-forgotten bling from the memory banks.

Professor Kaufman is a highly respected academic whose findings are of great interest in the world of embryology. But his experiments are based on work with the ova of the mouse, not the human. There are good biological reasons for using mice as early models for human experiments. But the results simply pose a question — they do not answer it.

Dr Martin Johnson, reader in Experimental Embryology at Cambridge University, is one of a group of scientists who is currently testing the effects of alcohol on the unfertilized human ovum. And as he says: "There is still absolutely no evidence to show that alcohol intake in women causes chromosomal abnormalities in the foetus."

Miscarriage is a common experience most of the losses occur before the woman realises that she is pregnant, and of diagnosed pregnancies, about one in five is lost. The links between social drinking by mothers and abnormality remain slight. Much stronger evidence exists to link alcohol consumption with abnormal human sperm. But this fact is little publicized.

Meanwhile, the peddlers in pre-conceptual care continue to grind on about alcoholic abstinence, hair analysis, zinc tablets and high-fibre diets which turn pregnancy into an endurance test. Kaufman's research will be used — probably without many references to mice — to support their arguments.

Yet there is no evidence that women who miscarry once or twice, or who have a defective baby should regard themselves as anything but unlucky. We don't know the answer to "why me?" and "why not me?" And while we don't know, we shouldn't let ourselves be exploited by the guilt industry.



## TOMORROW

Health Page

**Good Vibrations:** is "sound therapy" making the right noises?

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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

For some weeks now, and despite every provocation, I have not unleashed a single whinge, but there is a time when the pom of honour must stand up and be counted. I have accepted that my media should preoccupy themselves with bicentennial shenanigans to the exclusion of all else, that every square millimetre of Australian territory and every tiny moment of her somewhat sparse history should be dinned into my awareness, that every word from every turgid commemorative paean should be monitored, and that all this Whickering and Pilgering should not cease until every last antipodean eccentric and issue and moment and peculiar bloody marsupial had passed before me in review. I did this in the sure and simple faith that these were penalties to be paid so that I could sit up in the middle of the night and watch the Bicentennial Test.

Because if the BBC and the IBA put on all that - sparing no expense - would they not be bound to put on this? After all, to be fair to aboriginal rights and the Princess of Wales's courtier alike, was there any bicentennial issue about which the pom was likelier to give a damn? Fat chance: a nightly half-hour of recorded lowlights was all we were vouchsafed. Awake, anyhow, for the radio commentary, I switched on the box at 2am last Sunday, just to see what priorities had excluded Test coverage. Both BBC channels were blank. ITV was showing *Batman*, and Channel 4, true to form, was offering an ancient length of monochrome chromatic subtlety in which two old Poles carried a wardrobe into the sea.

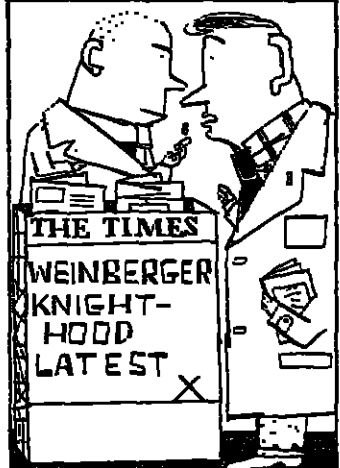
Next day a neighbour telephoned to say that a goldfish was swimming across my lawn. I looked out, in the middle of Monday's cyclone, and saw that he was right. My small pond having overflowed into the choppy lake which the garden had become, a couple of midget carp had taken it on the lam and were now striking out for the Baltic, with which Cricklewood was apparently on the point of being seamlessly connected.

Necessity is the mother of chaos. Although Izaak Walton has little to say on the manner of catching fish in a colander, I grabbed this against the option of a saucer, partly because holes would make unrolling easier, partly because God alone knew what trauma might afflict a fish suddenly discovering itself walled in with Teflon and clearly bound for the griddle.

What I had not anticipated was that an implement can have either holes or water in it, but not both. Having, after a pleasant enough 10 minutes wading this way and that across the vanished verdure, managed to catch one fugitive, I twigged that to catch the other, the first would have to leap about waterless. As I ran, it somersaulted before me, like an Olney pancake.

Nor would you believe the lack of co-operation its colleague brought to its succour. Fifteen further minutes were to pass before - with the two encolandered fish now engaged in a tugging one, another senseless - I could splash back into the house. Where my son, who had selflessly watched all this from the window, peered into the colander and said: "Those aren't ours." They are in a basin even as I type. Whose are they? Where are ours?

BARRY FANTONI



'I suppose it's in line with Duke Ellington, Count Basie and King Kong.'

I blame the Met Office. Why is this country always caught unprepared? Had Ian McCaskill had the foresight to gum a few minority minnows to his map the night before, all this could have been avoided.

Still, and fenny risk notwithstanding, off to Cambridge on the morning morn, ploughing on the one hand, and the teeth of a Chesterian gale, the bonnet shipping green, and storm-disorientated gulls wheeling over my wake in hope of jetsam.

The reason behind the crackpot pilgrimage is, of course, obvious. I am going in search of satirical crockery.

The previous evening, knackered by the day's coarse fishing and my equanimity tant, I had allowed myself to engage in an acrimonious barney with a singularly pompous obstetrician who insisted that the first Siamese twins recorded in Britain were Chang and Eng, born in 1814. Whereas I swore that one pair, at least, had been delivered in the 17th century. Had I not, 20 years before, seen them on a plate?

He asked, scoffing, for proof. Not having the plate about me, I was forced to accede to the consensus that I was not a household name where gynaecologists foregathered, and shut up. Nothing else for it, then. My checks still burning from the injustice of it all, I hurried myself a dozen hours later into the Fitzwilliam museum, and yes, still there, two decades on, was the plate: two foxy crooks in wigs, holding between them a pitiful infant brace, joined at the chest and identified as "Prisilla & Aquila", with, around the rim, the legend *Behold too persons that are reasonable to rob the parents and to keep the child*. It was dated 1680.

The catalogue explained that "Captain Henry Walrond and Sir Edward Phillips removed the twins from their Somerset parents and made money from displaying them to the public". I bore you with this personal triumph only because there is no way of proving it to my opponent, other than to publish it. This is because, on inquiry, I discovered that the catalogue I wanted to bear triumphantly to London cost £135. Walrond and Phillips would be proud.

It is a matter for deep concern that the Government appears reluctant to recognize either the sincerity or the strength of the feelings aroused by the provisions of the Education Reform Bill affecting universities.

At the heart of the universities' concern is the fact that the new law sets up mechanisms by which centres of higher education could be controlled, in general and in detail, by government. The universities - and others are joining them - are convinced that this would be contrary to the national interest, in the widest and fullest sense.

What are these mechanisms? Under Section 94, sub-sections 3 and 4 the Secretary of State will have powers to make such conditions as he may determine (there is no limitation) in allocating funds to the new Universities Funding Council, and the UGC must comply with "any directions" which he gives it. The UGC may, in turn, attach any conditions it thinks fit to allocations to individual universities, with powers to require repayment with interest if conditions are not complied with.

The universities believe that they can best do their job of

Richard Southwood explains the universities' fear of new controls

## Right to mistrust reform

teaching and research, and thus best serve the nation, if in their academic operations they are free from state control; at the same time they have never claimed exemption from the need to demonstrate good use of public funds. Putting this another way, there is a problem of reconciling independence with accountability.

In the past this problem was resolved by the existence of a strong and independent body interposed between government and the universities - the University Grants Committee. Lord Croham's committee, although it found the UGC in need of substantial reform, saw this clearly enough, but the Bill does not follow Lord Croham's lead. The UGC is indeed to have strong powers over the universities. But instead of being independent it will itself be

vulnerable to direct state control. The change is fundamental.

Ministers seem to have been reluctant to face up to this line of argument. Their first contention - erroneous, but doggedly repeated - was that they had followed the Croham prescription. Subsequently they have accepted that the legislation would make sweeping powers available to the Secretary of State, but have said those powers would not be exercised unreasonably - a personal assurance which obviously can have no permanent validity in competition with an Act of Parliament. And they have latterly contended - at highest ministerial level - that the universities are making a fuss about nothing because the government already has "unlimited powers": it could abolish the grants committee by a stroke of the pen, for

example, or redistribute grant between universities.

It would be unfair to take Mr Kenneth Baker's phrase out of context: he would surely not wish to contend that in reality his department's powers are "unlimited". Indeed, Mr Robert Jackson, in his recent piece in *The Times*, has directly addressed this point, referring to the way in which the "theoretical" powers have in practice been constrained by "conventions, by public opinion, and by the fact that - unlike their counterparts in some continental countries - the universities are autonomous self-governing corporations".

Mr Jackson's analysis of what has been the position is, as far as it goes, reassuring, but it is not a valid defence of the Bill, which if enacted will govern matters for the future. Mr Jackson went on

to state that the conventions which have "protected" the universities from detailed intervention throughout the period of the UGC will continue to operate in the new era of its successor. He offered no ground for this assertion, and however welcome it may be as an indication of his personal hopes or intentions, the universities will not be reassured.

They will be right not to be reassured. Where powers are undefined, convention based on consensus and fortified by long usage, may impose constraints which are formidably strong. Powers which are defined by statute, on the other hand, may be exercised, within the scope of the definition, freely and with challenge; and if, as in this case, the boundary of his legal power is to be widely drawn, a Secretary of State will enjoy powers greater

than those which "theoretically" (as Mr Jackson concedes) are currently "unlimited". Former custom is not likely to be invoked effectively to prevent actions which expressly, by statute, are perfectly legal. If the present situation, in which undefined powers are constrained by convention, is to be replaced by a "new era" of statutory clarity, then not only the powers, but also the protective constraints to which the Under-Secretary has referred, must be embodied in the legislation.

The Government would earn nothing but respect if it were to heed what is being so anxiously said, and consider most carefully the merits of the amendments which the universities are proposing. In considering those amendments it should have before it this question: "What is it that the Government would wish to retain, which it would lose if the amendments were to be made?" If the government does not accept the amendments it will owe Parliament a clear answer to that question.

Sir Richard Southwood is Acting Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

## Ruled by the Roundheads

If this be so, thy state of health is poor But thine arithmetic is quite correct

Perhaps those lines of A.E. Housman have come to the minds of some MPs in recent weeks, as the Government's great statistical barrage has crashed down relentlessly against the nurses and the doctors. And then again, perhaps no lines of verse came to the mind at all. I suspect that the total number of lines of verse, of any kind, that has come to the total number of minds in the present House of Commons may be the lowest such total ever in any House of Commons.

The great bourgeois revolution of the late 20th century is resolutely Philistine in character. And the real opposition to it, such as there is, is often below the level of Philistinism, and in the form of cultural nihilism.

When I say "real opposition" I am not referring to the whole of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, many of whom are a lot more loyal than they would care to say. There are a lot of closet Thatcherites around. Indeed, two of these - the leaders of the Liberals and the SDP - came out of the closet the other week, and then had to scamper back in again. Labour's closet Thatcherites are unlikely to risk a sortie.

By the real Opposition, I mean those who genuinely hate Thatcherism, without qualification. Coincidentally these people also hate literature, as a product of a class-society and therefore riddled on every rotten page with elitism, racism, sexism and homophobia. In America thinkers of this description have been able to drive *Huckleberry Finn* from bookshops, libraries, and curricula. I expect *Ofelia* to be on someone's hit list pretty soon.

The Thatcherites, for their part, don't actually hate literature. They don't care much about it either way, but the Thatcherite idolatry of freedom of choice works against the encouragement in schools of interest in literature. Most children, if not positively encouraged to read work which requires some effort, will confine them-

selves to the easier stuff. This appears to be happening in schools to an increasing extent. If America things have gone further, Professors of literature are teaching their students that their subject does not exist. There is no difference between Shakespeare and comic books, or if there is, the difference is no more significant than the difference between "a hoagie and a pizza" as the professor of literature in one American major university puts it.

In terms of property and income, the bourgeois revolution is obviously not a leveller; quite the contrary. But in cultural terms, the bourgeois is a leveller, and the levelling goes steadily down. And the fiercest enemies of the bourgeois revolution want the cultural level to go still faster down. But I had better explain what I mean by the bourgeois revolution of the late 20th century.

In Britain, by the last quarter of the century, the challenge to middle class authority, both from above and below, had seriously weakened. The upper classes had been weakened first by the impact of Labour legislation and tax policies after the Second World War, then by Britain's relative decline, especially in comparison with America. I suspect that the latter factor was the more important. America was doing very nicely, without the leadership of a hereditary landed aristocracy. Business leadership seemed to work better. So the upper classes dropped a bit; the middle classes began to perk up; and to lose the inhibitions which had so long afflicted them in the presence of their betters.

The challenge from below, which had looked formidable indeed at the mid-century, crumbled quite steadily thereafter. The working class itself began to break up, with the most competent and aggressive sections defecting to the middle class. The Tory party, now under militant middle-class leadership, appears in secure possession of the richest and most densely populated part of the country: a power base which can dominate the entire island.



Curiously, the political division in modern England, in regional terms, corresponds quite closely to the line of division at the time of the first English Revolution. Then, as now, the line ran between the South and East, on the one hand, and the North and West on the other. The old domain of the

Puritan revolutionaries is now the domain of Mrs Thatcher. The old Royalist areas are now held by Mr Kinnock's socialists. "The dark corners of the land," is how the Puritan revolutionaries used to refer to the North and West. And that is how these regions still appear, in the eyes of those who have inherited

the old Puritan power base: Thatcherism.

I don't think this is a mere curiosity or fortuitous paradox. The South and East, in the 17th century, were the regions dominated by the Puritan work ethic. And the most ardent champion of that ethic, in contemporary Britain, is Margaret Thatcher.

The greatest leader of Puritan England was distinguished, as Mrs Thatcher is, for ruthless efficiency. Mrs Thatcher likes to be compared with Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. But - tedious questions of crowns and genders set aside - I think the Iron Lady is closer in spirit to old Ironsides.

Internationally, too, the bourgeois revolution advances. The current heirs of the two great socialist revolutions in Russia and China are trying to make their revolutions over, along lines as near bourgeois as may be feasible.

The bourgeois revolution works no doubt about that. But there is often something repellent about how it works, as in recent weeks with regard to the health service. Mrs Thatcher never actually says: "The devil take the hindmost!" But the distance that may separate the hindmost from the devil, at any given moment, is not a significant factor in her calculations about the common good.

Mrs Thatcher likes to talk about the Victorians. The Victorian she most resembles is Dickens's Gradgrind. Gradgrind himself had a certain grandeur about him, as Mrs Thatcher has. But the prize product of Gradgrind's system is the odious Biter, a briskly functioning brain without any imagination at all, and consequently without capacity for compassion.

Some of Mrs Thatcher's ministers, and especially her junior ministers, have a look of Biter about them.

Possibly the bourgeois revolution, as it consolidates itself, will begin to lose some of its rawness, and some of its Philistinism. In America - where of course the bourgeois revolution is longer established - there are a few signs that something of the kind may be happening, especially in the critical sphere of higher education. Allan Bloom's *The Closing of the American Mind* - first blast of the trumpet against the "hoagie or pizza" school - sold five million copies last year. So there are some hungry sheep about who know they are hungry, and not for hoagie, nor yet for pizza.

Commentary • DIGBY ANDERSON

## Only discriminate

Miss Bellos gave the lead last year in suggesting Thatcherism might deliver minorities to the gas chambers. Minority enthusiasts have noisily taken up the theme, denouncing England as "a racist, homophobic, narrow-minded, authoritarian rathole". And now "figures in the arts" have complained collectively of an "unprecedented" witch-hunt "over what we think and do".

What they are frothing about is sometimes called, more mildly, homosexual discrimination. But what's obvious from their remarks is that, far from there being too much discrimination, there's not enough.

First, it might be useful to discriminate between the current tight restrictions on homosexual behaviour on the one hand, and Auschwitz on the other. Then they might have discriminated between censorship of the arts and teaching, and restriction of public subsidies.

If schools and libraries are funded by the taxpayer and run by politicians, it is logical and right that the politicians restrict them according to the taxpayers' wishes. It's clumsy, of course. Far better to let the users of schools and libraries have direct sovereignty of them as paying customers, assisted by government vouchers. But the assorted lobbyists would scarcely welcome that.

Next, the protesters could learn to discriminate among homosexuals themselves. Homosexuals do not come packaged in a "gay community" with an "interest" written on the label. They are as different as heterosexuals, socially, politically, morally. If there are, as claimed, up to four million of them, then perhaps 3,999,000

have not joined the demonstrations which purport to represent them. Many, perhaps, voted for Mrs Thatcher: some may support Clause 28 and resent having their private sexual inclinations turned into public municipal politics. Why should a discreet, retiring, elderly, conservative gentleman who has lived for many years with another man be classed with a group of mousetrapped, earringed, promiscuous and exhibitionist Trots, let alone have them speak for him?

In fact they threaten him. In the climate which followed the 1967 Act, many heterosexuals were personally tolerant of the individual homosexuals they knew. Minor discrimination there certainly was, for heterosexuals were not prepared to extend tolerance to equality, let alone to public affirmations of homosexuality. The *Weekend World* Harris Centre poll showed only half those tolerant of legal homosexuality also tolerant of public displays of homosexual affection, and only a fifth the teaching of homosexuality as on a par with the family.

The man and woman in the street can discriminate between rival claims. Society depends on the institution of the family for the care of both children and the elderly and the maintenance of values. It cannot let that institution be relativized away as one of a number of optional lifestyles. At the same time, it has to recognize that the homosexual minority will not go away, and come to terms with it.

They can also discriminate between tolerating individual homosexuals and surrendering their own value system. Unlike so many "experts" they are attached to the notions of

normality and abnormality. Such mild opposition as the survey's respondents had to homosexuality were to do with Aids and with unnaturalness. They can discriminate between normal sexual relations and sodomy, both heterosexual and homosexual sodomy. The obligation not to bound those who indulge in abnormal practices does not extend to calling those practices normal.

This fine balance in public attitudes, this discriminating reaction to homosexuality, is now in danger of breaking down because of the activities and extreme claims of the political activists. Basic tolerance, as indicated by approval of adult homosexuality being legal, in private, is down from 66 per cent in 1979 to 48 per cent, under half. In these circumstances, something like Clause 28 is inevitable. But the blame lies squarely with political extremists, most within the Labour Party, who have exploited homosexuals for their own ends.

It is a great shame because Clause 28, in any form, is not the right way to regulate homosexuality. It just like the municipal funding of homosexual promotion, is political intervention. Political intervention cannot discriminate between different sorts of homosexuals and practices: there will be anomalies. Political regulation cannot treat cases on their merits. It cannot negotiate. It cannot permit the "double-standards" and "contradictions" so essential in the web of competing claims and rights. Society could, and did before the activists tried to improve on it.

The author is Director of the Social Affairs Unit.

SCIENCE REPORT

## Who's for drinks?

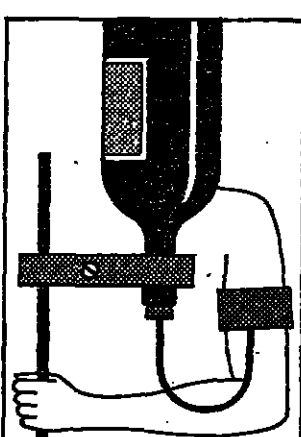
A simple blood test may some day be able to help mitigate the devastating personal and social consequences of alcoholism by identifying who will remain a social drinker and who is at risk of developing a serious addiction.

When several studies in recent years indicated that certain people may have genetic predisposition to alcoholism, a search started for easily detectable evidence of who was at risk. Genes make enzymes, and measuring their characteristics can give clues to a person's genetic makeup.

But researchers had to decide which of the thousands of enzymes necessary to life might be different in alcoholics. A clue came from alcoholics who committed suicide. Post mortem analysis showed that one enzyme, monoamine oxidase, was markedly abnormal, making it a likely candidate as a biological marker for alcohol dependence.

A research team led by Dr Boris Tabakoff at the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, in Bethesda, Maryland, studied the behaviour of monoamine oxidase found in a component of blood called platelets. Writing in the January 21 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, they said that alcohol had a more profound effect on the monoamine oxidase in the blood of alcoholics than in healthy volunteers.

Tabakoff's team tested the blood from 95 alcoholics and compared it with a group of 33



healthy volunteers. Measuring how the monoamine oxidase behaved in a test tube showed no differences. But when a small quantity of alcohol was added, the alcoholic's monoamine oxidase activity dropped dramatically.

Animal studies pointed Tabakoff's team to another enzyme, adenylylase cytochrome. Here too, the enzyme appeared superficially the same in the two groups. But when their blood was stimulated in the laboratory, the researchers were able to detect significant changes in the enzyme.

It was also found that even after four years on the wagon, the enzymes of alcoholics still showed the effects of alcohol. This might be a lingering response to advanced alcoholism, but may also be an inherent characteristic of people predisposed to alcoholism. It could be that the changes in

enzyme behaviour brought on by alcohol might be a cause, not a symptom of alcohol dependence.

Tabakoff and his colleagues subjected the results of their survey to advanced statistical analysis, and found that their enzyme measurements could diagnose alcoholism correctly in three out of four cases. This accuracy level, much higher than previous studies, implies that natural, individual variation in the sensitivity of these two enzymes to alcohol may be close to the heart of the matter.

Critics might claim that this study succeeds because it is retrospective, looking at people who are already alcoholics. Tabakoff and his team admit that inheritance is only one explanation for their results: the differences they observe need not be inherent, but symptoms of alcoholism in people with formerly quite normal enzymes.

It is virtually certain that a better understanding of alcoholism will show that more enzymes - and thus more genes - are involved than those affecting monoamine oxidase and adenylylase cytochrome. Genetic determinants of personality, motivation and learning are also bound to be involved.

But alcoholism is easiest to treat when discovered early. If these two enzymes can be used to identify problem drinkers, prevention can begin even before a potential alcoholic takes that first drink.

HENRY GEE

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## SPRIT OF '66

The National Union of Seamen still looks back with pride to its crippling national strike in 1966, when Harold Wilson's phrase about "this tightly-knit group of politically-motivated men" entered the dictionary of political quotations. In its current national ferrymen's strike it seems determined to caricature that famous episode.

This week's action at the ports is certainly frustrating to would-be ferry passengers. All the more entitled are they, then, to extract from it such amusement as they can in compensation. They might even wish that the present leadership of the NUS was a little more tightly knit and motivated by a few more fragments of political sense. Whatever the union's grievance, it is hard to take seriously what is prosecuted so ineptly.

Without so much as a blink in direction of the 1984 Trades Union Act, the NUS called out its members on diverse ferry services all over the country, in protest at the cuts in staff and service deemed necessary by the owners of the Isle of Man service. It is a strike without a strategy, political or otherwise, or indeed any sort of logic at all, for most of the employers against whom NUS members have been called on to strike are quite separate from the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company. So these other companies cannot deliver what their striking employees say they want. That makes aiming industrial action at them pointless, as well as secondary and unlawful.

Moreover, it was unlawful anyway. No ballot has been conducted among the membership affected. Perhaps the union's leadership has been on a slow boat to China and back these last few years, for its behaviour is as if the 1979 election never happened and as if the trade union movement's initial repugnance at pre-strike balloting in the 1984 Act had never been transformed by the passage of time and pressure of opinion into general approval.

The climate has also changed in a much more significant way, as a direct comparison between the 1966 and the 1988 disputes reveals. The action now is, in effect, in protest at the damaging effect on the employment of British seamen of increased competition and the influence of market forces. The industry is especially susceptible to these factors. British shipping lines are in fierce competition with each other and with foreign lines for trade; British seamen are in competition with foreign seamen for employment.

The protest in 1966 was almost the exact opposite. The shipping lines were prepared to pay what the seamen wanted; and only the Labour Government's prices and incomes policy stood in the way. What Mr Wilson was complaining so bitterly about in 1966 was the intention of communists in the NUS to break his precious policy, in the name of free collective bargaining. In one sense, therefore, the old strike was in defence of market forces. This one is in defiance of those same forces.

The NUS has, inevitably, been taken to court by the other shipping lines. No less inevitably, it has been instructed to withdraw its strike instruction. Its General Secretary, Mr Sam McCuskie, has talked wildly about not fearing the sequestration of the union's assets because it hardly has any left. His executive intends to convene on Friday, with no apparent sense of urgency, to address itself to this problem as if it had only just thought of it.

These legal skirmishes, meanwhile, can have no effect whatever on the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company's intentions. They will continue to recruit alternative crews to replace their own striking seamen, with a view to resuming normal services as soon as possible. If the NUS invites its assets to be sequestered, that is hardly going to dissuade them. Yet that is likely to be the only tangible effect of the union's campaign.

## INS AND OUTS OF THE NHS

The debate on the health service has focused attention once again on the question of what a given sum of public spending really means. When we talk of spending on health do we mean the actual cash, or do we mean the cash adjusted for some general measure of inflation?

Alternatively, do we mean cash adjusted for some particular measure of inflation relevant to the service in question — a measure, for instance, which would take account of the rise in doctors' and nurses' rates of pay and would, therefore, give a better indication of the change in the resources available to the service?

These questions are likely to surface again today when the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John Major, gives evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and Civil Service. One of the complaints launched at the Government has been that, while it has, indeed, provided more money for the NHS, taking into account the rate at which health costs rise, the increase in the volume of resources is either small or even negative. Rapidly advancing medical technology and sharp increases in the cost of equipment put further strains on a budget on which demands are always rising.

The argument is perfectly sound. Different measures of spending are appropriate for different purposes and cost increases in any particular programme are obviously relevant to the effective value of the resources going into it. But it is completely wrong to go on from there to conclude that spending decisions should be determined partly by the rate at which the Government's costs increase.

One of the last Labour Government's achievements, made at considerable political cost, was to abandon this very system of planning public spending in volume terms and substitute the much more effective discipline of cash limits. Once the Government plans for a particular "volume" of spending on a service cost control becomes a side issue. In meeting the Government's spending targets cost increases are an incidental which simply has to be met. Public spending starts to rise faster

than growth in the economy. Taxation and borrowing rise and inflation results.

The absurdity of this approach is most glaring in relation to defence spending. Few people would argue that we should accept that £1 billion wasted on Nimrod is simply due to the way in which defence costs inexorably rise faster than costs in other parts of the economy. Yet that is what the advocates of planning in volume terms are inviting us to do. Cost control in the health service may not confront quite such spectacular challenges, but the challenges are certainly there.

The message of spending adjusted for differential increases in costs is ambiguous even where costs are determined in a competitive market and public-sector management is as rigorous as in the private sector. A new generation of tank may cost many times what its predecessor cost, but it may also be many times more effective. Similarly, pay increases for nurses which improve recruitment, encourage the development of scarce skills and increase staff contentment are clearly contributing to a more effective health service.

It would be the height of folly for the Government now to abandon cash planning of public spending for a return to the will-o'-the-wisp of "resources" for spending. Spending should continue to be determined overall by what the economy can afford, bearing in mind the desirability of reducing the tax burden, and priorities within that arrived at according to the political pressures of the day.

Those pressures may well indicate an increase in spending on health when the new public expenditure survey begins, but that assessment should be influenced more by the effectiveness of the service than by reference to spending figures. The public ultimately is not interested in inputs to the health service, however sophisticated the measure, but in outputs from it. The Treasury Committee in the past has had considerable success in probing what the Government is buying rather than what it is spending and that is where the debate should now be focused.

## BORIS AND NIKOLAI

On Monday *Le Monde* published a document purporting to be the hitherto unpublished speech by Mr Boris Yeltsin at the Autumn Plenum of the Soviet Communist Party — the speech which brought his downfall. Experts will argue about whether the document is genuine, but its authenticity is less important than its appearance at this particular time. Genuine or not, it signifies that the conflict which led to Mr Yeltsin's removal as head of the Moscow City Communist Party nearly three months ago is still unresolved.

Supporters and opponents of Mr Yeltsin would have an equal interest in making a version of his speech public. Those who agreed with him were doubtless disappointed that, for all the talk of *glasnost*, his attack on the privileges enjoyed by the party élite was suppressed. Those of the opposite persuasion could hope to frighten the beneficiary of the present system into a stouter defence of their position. The personal criticism of Mrs Raisa Gorbachov and the Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, whether included in the original speech or added to discredit the author, can also be read both ways.

Beneath the shifting surface, however, the battle is about policies. Mr Yeltsin's dismissal, the shelving of legislation on press freedom and the postponement of a planned central committee meeting on education reform have offered isolated hints of the turmoil within the Soviet Communist Party. Nothing indicates the scale of this more graphically than the recently re-joined debate about Lenin's ideologist, Nikolai Bukharin.

The figure of Bukharin, who was purged by Stalin at the last great show trial in 1938, has become a twofold symbol. For the Soviet intelligentsia, Bukharin represents a test of how the Communist Party deals with well-intentioned intellectual critics. The call for him

to be rehabilitated, raised first after Stalin's death and recently repeated by his widow, is an appeal to the party to be merciful to those who dissent from current party orthodoxy but who have none the less rendered it great service. It also contains, for many, an appeal for the rehabilitation of other old revolutionaries and for an honest account of Soviet history.

But Bukharin is also a point of reference for those communists, not only in the Soviet Union, who favour a full condemnation of Stalin and a relaxation of the orthodoxies — political and economic — he enforced. Bukharin is seen as an opponent of excess, who offered a real (and preferable) alternative to Stalinism. He supported Lenin's New Economic Policy, which allowed a limited restoration of private enterprise in the early 1920s; he favoured a system of agriculture which combined private farming and co-operatives, arguing that prosperous peasants made for prosperous towns.

He opposed accelerated and over-centralized industrialization. He spoke of the need for a proper legal framework to protect individuals against the power of the party and the state. He also supported the emergence of informal cultural and social groups, like those which have sprung up in the Soviet Union in the past year, on the ground that they operated as a check, one of very few, on bureaucracy.

Many of these policies came close to those advocated by Mr Gorbachov, and until an official formula has been devised to explain why Bukharin was wrong and Gorbachov is right, the rehabilitation of Bukharin is dangerous and will arouse opposition. It would amount to an admission that for 60 years the Soviet Union has been following an incorrect course. It would threaten the Stalinist foundations on which so much of the present Soviet system still rests.

## Why the UGC needs a new role

From Lord Annan  
Sir, Sir Mark Richmond (January 26) Lord Russell (January 30) and others ask why the functions of the University Grants Committee need to be redefined in the Education Reform Bill. The short answer is that, when a convention becomes a fiction, it is better to tell the truth.

After the Robbins report some of us said publicly that the UGC was bound to change its character and become the arm of government; and the role of representing the needs, hopes and discontents of the universities would pass to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors.

Sure enough, as Treasury control began to be exercised, the UGC reluctantly operated a system of norms and other administrative devices that diminished university autonomy; and after the oil crisis and the collapse of the quinquennial system the UGC spent more time advising universities than on advising the Government.

Even before the cuts of 1982 the chairman of the UGC made it clear to me, when I was Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, that the UGC could no longer contemplate financing so many small multi-faculty institutions in London when their unit costs were so much higher than those in other civic universities. He also indicated that London must make more progress in rationalising its medical schools.

In 1982, Sir Edward Parker took the courageous decision not to cut across the board but to give some universities and some subjects, such as engineering, a better deal than others.

Universities are right to be sensitive to any threat to academic freedom, but they often protest too much. In 1967, when Tony Crosland introduced a small differential between overseas and home students' fees, academic freedom was said to be in danger; and time and again when governments make proposals for change the cry is raised. But I, too, have

apprehensions, and I hope Sir Mark Richmond shares them. They are these.

It was right 25 years ago to expand higher education. It was wrong to think it could all be Rolls-Royce education. It was wrong to insist on parity of esteem between university and university and between universities and polytechnics. No country could afford to run all its institutions with staff-student ratios of 1:10 or lower, or to have all staff on comparable rates of pay, or to support all students at the same rate to enable them to go anywhere, near or far, for a first degree. It was wrong to ensure the three-year first degree as the only respectable qualification.

The expansion has got wrecked on parity of esteem. In America there are fine universities that have no graduate students; there are places where the staff do good research but teach on a different level from Chicago or Berkeley. No one thinks Rutgers, in New Jersey, should ape Princeton. Unless the Government decides to privatise higher education, only central bodies such as the UGC (University Funding Council) can initiate change.

If there is no change three things will follow. Not enough 18-year-olds will learn skills the country needs and open their minds. Not enough will be done — there is far too little — to retain those who work in professions or industry. Not enough funds will be available to maintain Britain's record in scientific research.

Lord Russell belongs, as I did, to an elite institution. If he wants it, as I am sure he does, to remain a centre of excellence, some way must be found to give a dozen or so — a Baker's dozen — institutions and units preferential funding to enable them to continue to rank as among the best in the world of scholarship. A UFC could do it. Yours faithfully, NOEL ANNAN, House of Lords, February 1.

## Abolition of ILEA

From Mr Nigel Waterson

Sir, I am writing to you at a time when it seems that an announcement by the Government that the ILEA (Inner London Education Authority) is to be abolished altogether is imminent. As a governor of an inner-London school and a Conservative supporter, I have been troubled for some time that the present proposals are not wholly satisfactory.

On the face of it, the idea of opting out does place more choice in the hands of local authorities. However, we have a situation where certain boroughs, such as Kensington and Chelsea, have indicated an intention to opt out,

whereas my own Labour-controlled borough takes the opposite view. What this could mean in practice is that Hammersmith and Fulham would remain as a small "island" of ILEA surrounded by boroughs which have opted out.

I hope that in time even some members of the Labour Party in London will see the benefits of a clean break with the past. Instead of continuing uncertainty about which boroughs would opt out, all boroughs would then be able to lay their plans in good time. This must be to the benefit of children, parents and teachers alike.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL WATSON, 22 Marco Road, W6, January 29.

## Check-up charges

From the Secretary of the General Dental Practitioners' Association

Sir, Members of the General Dental Practitioners' Association will have been interested to read your article (January 21) on the abolition of free dental check-ups for patients, as proposed in the Health and Medicines Bill currently going through committee in the House of Commons. In a recent poll of our members we found that 98 per cent of dentists were opposed to this radical change.

For many years dentists have complained that there is no room in the dental fee scale for prevention. The essence of dental prevention is frequent monitoring and removal of patients. Ministers' responses to criticism on this point have always pointed to the dental examination as the

main preventive item in the fee scale. By putting a charge on the check-up they go against the grain of their preventive philosophy.

The new proportional charges, coupled with the charge on check-ups, mean that almost all courses of NHS dental treatment will be more expensive, some considerably so. We have calculated that a single filling may cost as much as £49.80, an increase of 41.5 per cent. Against this background of NHS charges the cost of the private scheme, Denplan, at £6 a month appears modest rather than "not inconsiderable".

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL WATSON, Honorary Secretary, General Dental Practitioners' Association, 152 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, January 25.

## Future of the NHS

From Dr Edward J. Horgan

Sir, The Government's greatest ally in controlling demand for expensive specialist care is the family doctor. It is he who can best assess the necessity for appropriate referral in the light of his medical opinion and personal knowledge of the patient.

The balance between consumer and supplier in our health service is in the hands of the only person

who can possibly assess the reasonableness of the demand — the family doctor. This places a heavy responsibility upon that doctor and he or she needs to be given support and encouragement to take on this responsibility and make these decisions.

In exchange for this trust the profession must allow medical audit. Comparisons of performance and workload to expose the idle and counsel the incompetent doctor is the price that must be paid by the profession if it is to continue to receive the confidence of the British patient and the further development of the world's fairest health service. Yours faithfully, E. J. HORGAN, The Surgery, Victoria Road, Mortimer, Berkshire.

## Third World books

From Mr M. L. Teale

Sir, The overseas group of our association has been supplying both books and small items of veterinary equipment to less privileged countries for some time and I was delighted to read the letters from Kenneth Kirkwood and N. C. Stedman (January 18).

Veterinary books are in great demand and many times I have been told that the older books are very acceptable. In fact modern books involving the latest technology are not sought after as in many cases the expertise and technical equipment are not available.

Yours faithfully, M. L. TEALE (Chairman, Overseas Subcommittee), British Veterinary Association, 7 Mansfield Street, W1.

## Uneasy on the ear

From Mrs Jane M. Reynolds

Sir, Re Simon Inglis's letter of January 22 [on irritating sounds] — the continuous "buzz" from the electric cooker summoning one to attend to a culinary masterpiece, which you know will survive unharmed for at least another five minutes while you read the final paragraph in an article in *The Times*. Yours faithfully, JANE REYNOLDS, Sandal, 68 Firs Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex.

## Abortion reform

From Dr R. H. Lindenbaum

Sir, If made law in its present form the Alton abortion Bill will affect not just those families with previously-born handicapped children, or other known genetic problems — it will influence the medical care of almost every pregnant woman in this country.

Foetal abnormality is not a rarity; it is a fact of life and death, and it is more resistant to attempted legislation than the resistant social fact of abortion.

Despite the pronouncements of some professionals and academics, not all foetal abnormalities and genetic disorders will or can be diagnosed by the 17 weeks and no days limit written into the Bill. Amongst women seen by me even pregnant members of Life have changed their views when personally confronted with this sort of problem.

Yours faithfully, R. H. LINDENBAUM, Department of Medical Genetics, Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

## Case for uniform business rate

From the Director General of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce

Sir, In his article of January 28 ("Fairer rates for business") John Banham, Director General of the CBI, does business a service by rightly focusing attention on the uniform business rate (UBR) proposals within the Local Government Finance Bill.

The principle of a UBR may be one to which the CBI are opposed, but it has been consistently supported by this association as the national voice for chambers of commerce. There is a better case for the continuation of rates on businesses than individuals; businesses predominantly use local authority property-based services and all businesses pay rates.

The value of a UBR is that it at long last removes business rates from the hands of local authorities, too many of whom have abused them as a source of revenue for too long. It is, however, rough justice, particularly on those who have previously voted with their feet and moved to low-rated areas.

On balance, it is better to take the benefit of a national business rate, even though its introduction in tandem with revaluation, after a lapse of 17 years, presents many businesses with very sharp potential changes in their rates bill — something for which we have long criticised local authorities.

The essential and immediate question, whatever one's position on the principle of the UBR, is to determine more precisely in what terms the Government propose to phase in the UBR after 1990 and

in what way the national rate poundage is to be changed annually after its introduction. There are some major steps which Government can take to mitigate the adverse impact.

These include setting a 10 per cent limit in real terms on the annual increase in the rate bill, with the cost met from the Exchequer. This retains the benefit to those who have lost out over the years by high rates and lack of revaluation, while safeguarding the position of those most seriously at risk.

Secondly, the national rate poundage under UBR should be on an "RPI-minus" formula. This would allow the expansion of the tax base and cost improvements in local government services to be reflected in a real-terms rate bill for business reducing from its present too-high level, leaving more room, as John Banham rightly says, for business to invest for the future. We have put these points to ministers.

Yours faithfully, R. G. TAYLOR, Director General, The Association of British Chambers of Commerce, Sovereign House, 212a Shaftesbury Avenue, WC1, January 29.

## ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 3 1872

A claimant to the baronetcy, who declared himself to be Roger Tichborne, presumed lost at sea years before, fought the longest trial of the century. Summing-up for the family, Sir John Coleridge, the Attorney-General, who spoke for 26 days, successfully undermined the claimant's credibility by questioning him about Tichborne's schooldays.

## THE TICHBORNE CASE.

The examination continues—

"What is handy? — the name is very familiar to me, but I cannot tell what it is. Would it surprise you to find that it was the popular game at Stonyhurst — a game with ball, in which Roger Charles Tichborne was a great proficient? — Nothing of the kind. I was not a proficient in it."

Now, handy is a bastard kind of hockey, and Roger Tichborne was very fond of it, dressing his friends out in coloured caps and jackets in a rather fantastic way. It is absurd to suppose that he would have forgotten it. Anybody who had been at Stonyhurst for a month would remember it, much more Roger Tichborne, who took the greatest interest in the game and was perpetually playing it. . . . One more reminiscence of Stonyhurst. Roger Tichborne was an inveterate smoker and could not be put off his cigars and pipes on any consideration. At Stonyhurst, as at other places, the masters were quite opposed to smoking and the students were never supposed to smoke; but everybody who liked smoking smoked all the same. . . . So at Stonyhurst smoking was quite contrary to rules, but so long as the boys did not smoke in the quadrangle, smoking was winked at. The boys went behind the yew hedges to smoke, and everybody knew of the practice, as indeed their noses must have told them. At last a severe edict went forth against smoking, and one of the yew hedges was cut down to a height of three feet, so that if you smoked behind it your head was seen. Thereupon, Roger Tichborne, who seems to have been an adventurous youth and fore-shadowed at this time his South American travels, went into a wood where there was an old hut and used to smoke up a sort of chimney there; but the relentless master found him out, and the cabin was pulled down. The real Roger Tichborne could not have forgotten these incidents, but the plaintiff could tell us nothing about the cabin, about getting into the flue to smoke, or anything else which a boy who had been rather hunted by the masters for his smoking would be sure to remember. The cross-examination was founded on these doings of Roger Tichborne. I will not trouble you with the theatricals. . . . but you will remember that I produced an old play-bill showing that Roger took part in the *Castle of Andalusia*, an old English opera, with a great deal of pretty music in it, and pretty songs written by Shields. Well, I asked him the meaning of the letters "A. M. D. G.", and he could not explain them. I told him they stood for "Ad maiorem gloriam Dei." You know that he understood Castilian, and as both Italian and Spanish are derived from Latin, a very limited acquaintance with the latter would teach him that *Dei gloriam* meant the glory of God. So, he told us this much; but he was wholly at a stand about *Ad maiorem*. I do not want to make a joke, but as he says, he has been in the army, I almost wonder that he did not say *ad maiorem* had something to do with a major. (Laughter.) However, the words *ad maiorem* were altogether beyond him. I next tried him with *Laus Deo semper*. Here, again, his knowledge of Spanish would help him to the last two words; but not understanding *laus* he said the words meant, "The laws of God for ever, or permanently." (Laughter.) . . .

## Hearing of appeals

From Mr Malcolm Cotterill

Sir, Mr Ludovic Kennedy (January 21) asserts that the only way of preventing the fabrication or the suspicion of fabrication of false evidence by the police is the appointment of examining magistrates. I suggest there is an infinitely cheaper and better alternative.

All that is necessary is the presence of a magistrate or other person approved and fairly paid by the Lord Chancellor during the conduct of the police questioning. Being drawn from a panel of such people, he would be available at any time — an important matter, since the police will not want to allow a suspect time to prepare his story.

He could prevent, or at least record, any unfairness or oppression. He could similarly record any apparent confusion or lack of understanding in the accused which might affect the significance to be given to his replies.

The suspect's inability or refusal to answer any proper question properly put with such proper safeguards could then, as Mr Kennedy suggests, be a proper matter for comment by either the prosecution or the judge at his trial.

Yours sincerely, MALCOLM COTTERILL, Guildhall Chambers, Broad Street, Bristol, Avon, January 25.

## In vino veritas

From Professor Ian Fellis

Sir, Bernard Levin (*The Times*, January 28) predicts that by 1991, wine will be labelled with a health warning. Some four years ago I was in Delhi where I foolishly in retrospect, ordered a bottle of Indian red wine. It came complete with warning label reminding me that alcohol can damage my health. A better warning would have been that that particular Indian red wine would damage my health!

Yours faithfully, IAN FELLIS, The University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, Merz Court, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, January 29.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 2: The Princess Royal this morning opened the Fourth Quinquennial Veterinary Conference given by the Horserace Betting Levy Board at the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
February 2: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present at a concert given by the Massed Bands of the Guards Division at the Royal Festival Hall.

Lady Elizabeth Basset, Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt, and Captain Niall Hall were in attendance.

Lady Elizabeth Basset has succeeded Mrs Patrick Campbell-Prescott as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
February 2: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy are delighted to announce the engagement of their son, James Ogilvy, to be married to Julia Rawlinson, the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Rawlinson.

This evening, Her Royal Highness and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present at the Annual Festival Dinner of the News-vendors' Benevolent Institution (Old Ben) at Grosvenor House, London W1.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Netherlands from July 4 to 6 to take part in celebrations in connection with the tercentenary of the accession to the British throne of King William III.

## Marriage

**Mr P.J.R. Elton and Miss E.L. Hamlin**  
The marriage took place at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Ringwood, Hampshire, on January 9, 1988, between Mr P.J.R. Elton and Miss E.L. Hamlin.

The bride was attended by Miss A.J. Appleton, Miss E.S. Elton, Miss R.L. Appleton and Miss K. Jennings. Mr Patrick O'Reilly was best man.

The honeymoon was spent in Rome and Florence.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, Chancellor of London University, will open the new central office of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation at Millman Street, WC1, at 3.00.

Princess Alexandra will attend the opening of the new Oxford House at 21 Knightsbridge at 5.45.

## Memorial service

**Mr G. Whiting**  
A memorial service for Mr Geoffrey Whiting was held yesterday in Canterbury Cathedral. The Rev Peter Johnson officiated and gave an address. Mr David Leach and Canon Anthony Phillips, Headmaster of The King's School, Canterbury, read the lessons. Mr David Whiting, son, read a poem by R.S. Thomas. The Rev Colin Levey said the prayers and the blessing was pronounced by Canon Peter Brett, Vice-Dean.

## Appointments

Latest appointments include: Commodore J. M. T. Hilton, RN, to be President of the Ordnance Board in the rank of Rear Admiral in March, in succession to Major-General E.G. Wilmut.

Captain A. P. Woodhead, RN, to be Flag Officer Flotilla Two, in succession to Rear Admiral G. F. Lardet, March, in the rank of Rear Admiral.

**Luncheon**  
Society for Individual Freedom Sir Richard Body, MP, Chairman of the Society for Individual Freedom, entertained members of the society at luncheon at the House of the Commons yesterday. Lord Monson and Mr William Cash, MP, were among those present.

**Dinners**  
Founders' Company The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was entertained at a dinner held last night at the Mansion House. Mr A.F. Mitchener, Master, presided.

**Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain**  
Mr Bernard Silverman, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Lord Lambarnock also spoke.

# Sun and celebrations down-under cause run on emigration forms

By Howard Foster

Teeming February rain brought out a sense of perverse satisfaction among the would-be emigrants who filled and, at times, overflowed from, Australia House in the Strand this week.

Many of the queue of 70 or more keen to find a new life in Australia after watching television coverage of that country's bicentenary and the Prince and Princess of Wales's tour, said that the British climate was significant factor in their desire to leave.

For a month now, the queues have been snaking round the migration office in London and out through the double doors and along the Strand.

In January, there were 24,000 telephone inquiries about visits to Australia, the highest on record. The figure for last December was 4,400.

The publicity over the 200th anniversary celebrations, officials at Australia House never tire of reminding you, goes on until the end of 1988.

"It's incredible. We have a really high profile now and it is all the sunshine and the lifestyle that is seen on television that gives people the final push to apply to come to us", said Mr Joe Rodigari, who runs the London migration office.

"You can make the total inquiries in January as 34,000, including personal visits to our offices, and 60 per cent of those want to emigrate".

In the past few days the queue to pick up and return immigration forms included carpenters, diesel fitters, an hotel commissionaire, and a man who employs 14 people in a thriving hairdressing salon who had nearly £500,000 in assets.

"Australia looks so nice", said Mr Stephen Sellick, a roof tiler from Braintree in Essex, who was queuing this week with his wife, Michelle, and 15 months old son, Ryan.

"We have been thinking of emigrating for a couple of months and when you see the fine weather on television, you realize what you are missing. Melbourne seems a much better bet than Braintree." Mr and Mrs Sellick are both aged 24.

Mr Eamon Ryan, 48, is the commissionaire at the Forum Hotel, west London. His wife is a midwife and he has two small children.

He said that the weather in Britain was far less important a factor in his decision to emigrate than the prospects

over there and the fact that he had read a recent article by Henry Kissinger which appeared to point out that Australia was gaining stature in the world.

Mr Pat Daniels and Mr Richard Newton had travelled from Bournemouth for their application forms. Both carpenters, they stood in the rain and complained about the difficulty of working in a British winter.

"We are fed up with the weather; seeing the beaches and the sun as you do on television is the last straw", said Mr Daniels.

"Some people say Bournemouth is nice in the summer but they don't see it in the winter. We both thought the Australians would be more geared up to deal with those who want to emigrate".

Mr Rodigari added: "There are going to be a lot of disappointed people. Only one in ten applicants was accepted last year and we are allowing only 120,000 people worldwide into the country this year."

Occupations currently in demand in Australia include accountants, carpenters, chefs, hairdressers, stone-masons and journalists.



Ruskin Spear's dramatic portrait of Sir Ralph Richardson as Falstaff sets the scene as Sir Peter Hall, Director of the National Theatre, and Lady Richardson formally open the Richardson Room at the National Theatre yesterday (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

## University news

**Oxford**  
The Hebdomadal Council has put forward proposals for the following honorary degrees to be conferred at the university's annual celebration of English Literature on June 22. These awards are subject to the approval of Congregation on February 9.

**D Litt:** Dr Yuri Davidovich Levin, doctor of philology and distinguished scholar, research scholar, Institute of Russian Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad.

**DSc:** Professor John Bernard Gurdon, FRS, John Humphrey Plummer professor of cell biology, Cambridge and hon student, Christ Church.

**DSc:** Professor Donald Ervin Knuth, professor of computer science, Stanford University, US.

**DMus:** Bernard Haitink, royal opera house since 1987, music director, Glyndebourne 1978-88 and Conductor in Chief, Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam, 1964-88.

**DMus:** Dr Paul Sacher, conductor, musical scholar, patron of composers and founder of the leading institution in the world for the study of contemporary music.

Council was also intending to propose the conferment of the degree of doctor of letters, honores causa, upon the late Ralph Alexander Leigh, emeritus professor of French and sometime Sanders reader in bibliography, University of Cambridge, and member of the Voltaire Foundation Fund Committee and the Voltaire Foundation Directors.

It was thought particularly appropriate to accord this honour in recognition of Professor Leigh's monumental contribution to scholarship in the production of 45 volumes of the *Correspondence Complete* of J-J Rousseau. Professor Leigh had agreed to the submission of his name to Congregation, but he died on December 22, 1987.

**Appointments**  
Director of the Oxford Glycobiology Unit: R A Dwek, MA, DPhil, DSc (BSc, MSc, Manchester), Fellow of Exeter College, From January 1, 1988.

**University Lectures**  
Oriental Studies: J A Black, MS, DPhil, Fellow-elect of Wolfson College, In Akkadian, From 1 February 1988; C J Kerlake,

**DPhil (BA Cambridge)**, Fellow-elect of St Antony's College, In Turkish, From 1 August 1988. Physical Sciences: S R Turnbull (BA, PhD, Newcastle upon Tyne), Fellow of St Peter's College, In Engineering Science, From 1 January 1988.

**Appointments by the Board of the Faculty of Clinical Medicine**  
Clinical Reader: C H Ferguson (MB, BS London), Fellow-elect of Green College, In Orthopaedic Surgery, From 1 September 1987; R G Twycross, DM, Fellow of St Peter's College, From 1 January 1988.

**Clinical Lecturers:** D W Cranston, DPhil, Wolfson, (MB, ChB Bristol), In Surgery, From 1 September 1987; A P Fraib (MB, BS Newcastle), In Bacteriology, From 1 November 1987; P J Ratcliffe (MD Cambridge), In Clinical Medicine, From 1 November 1987; R M Smith (MB, BCh Leeds), In

**Prizes**  
George Webb Medical Essay Prize 1987: Harry Bannister, Balliol College, Clinical Medical Scholarship 1987: Sir Hobson Memorial Scholarship, tenable for two years and 10 months from 1 September 1987, have been awarded as follows: Queen's College, Cambridge and New College, Oxford; Christ Church, Oxford; Jesus College, Cambridge; and New College, Oxford; Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut; and St John's College, Oxford.

**Elections**  
**ST JOHN'S COLLEGE**  
General election of fellows from October 1, 1988: In English: Paul Gifford, Balliol College, Oxford; In French: Michael J. Delaney, Balliol College, Oxford; In History: Michael J. Delaney, Balliol College, Oxford; In Law: Michael J. Delaney, Balliol College, Oxford; In Medicine: Michael J. Delaney, Balliol College, Oxford; In Natural Science: Michael J. Delaney, Balliol College, Oxford; In Theology: Michael J. Delaney, Balliol College, Oxford.

**St Antony's College**  
Sir Raymond Carr, former warden of the college, and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, chancellor of the university, have been made honorary fellows.

**Bradford**  
To Dr Thomas Childs and Dr Andrew Day mechanical engineering a co-operative award of £7,500 from the Science and Engineering Research Council for the development of a new design and manufacturing process.

**Mr Bernard Haitink.**  
Orthopaedic Surgery, From 1 November 1987; M Selinger (BMed Sc, BM, SS Nottingham), In Obstetrics and Gynaecology, From 1 December 1987.

**Dr Stephanie Dalley (MA Cambridge)**, PhD London has been appointed Shillito Fellow in Assyriology for five years from 1 January 1988.

**Election**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE**  
The governing body has made the following election to a non-stipendiary minor research fellowship in classical studies: Riccardo Renshaw, PhD (State University of New York).

**Promotion**  
**MERTON COLLEGE**  
A N Davis, Exhibitioner, formerly of Merton College, to a Junior Fellowship.

Two awards have been made to the university's engineering materials group led by Dr Andrew Wroblewski (mechanical engineering). The first to study ways of mixing steel and ceramic powders which, when sintered, produce extremely tough and hard-wearing components. The second is for research into methods of brazing steels using other metal alloys.

The third award has been made to Dr Alfred Keller (industrial technology) for research into the reliability of future oil platforms which will operate on the seabed.

**Polytechnic news**  
Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, is believed to be the first polytechnic in Britain to set up a chair in accounting funded by a firm of chartered accountants.

Just appointed to the post is Professor Richard Wilson, formerly with Sheffield University's School of Management. The money has been put up by Pannell Kerr Forster, an international accountancy practice.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr R.S.K. Bell and Miss R.F. Roach**  
The engagement is announced between Robert Stewart Kenyon, only son of Major and Mrs G. Bell, of Pen Aber, Criccieth, North Wales, and Rebecca Frances, elder daughter of Mr T.J.F. Roach, of the Old Bakery, Skirmett, near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Mrs P.K. Roach, of Ty Gwyn, Tremadoc, North Wales.

**Mr C.M. Brand and Miss L.R. Lenzburg**  
The engagement is announced between Clive, only son of Mr Gordon John Holmes Brand and of Mrs Betty Ada Chew, of Bedford, and Lesley, only daughter of Mr Frederick Forbeck, of south-east London, and Mrs Regina Anne Lenzburg, of Latham, Lancashire.

**Mr P.G. Darby and Miss G.T. Lawrence**  
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs J. Darby, of Kingsdown, Kent, and Gill, eldest daughter of Mr Colin Lawrence, of Dorking, Surrey, and Mrs Janet Lawrence, of Clifton-on-Teme, Worcestershire.

**Lieutenant A.I. Georgeson and Miss L.G. Griffith**  
The engagement is announced between Ian, younger son of the late John Farquhar Georgeson and Mrs Margaret Turnbull Georgeson, of Abercorn Terrace, Edinburgh, and Isobel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Griffith, of La Mariscala, Lima.

**Mr J.W. Gibbs and Miss C.C. Randall**  
The engagement is announced between Jack, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Bobby Gibbs, of Oaksey, Wiltshire, and Charlotte, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Randall, of Monks Eligh, Suffolk.

**Mr M.W. Hopkins and Miss R.M.W. Woolston**  
The engagement is announced between Martin, only son of Mr and Mrs M.A. Hopkins, of Coventry, and Rachel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H.J. Woolston, of Cambridge.

**Mr L. Kay and Miss D.M. Bates**  
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of Mr and Mrs David Kay, of Biling, Kent, and Diane, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Bates, of Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

**Mr R.D. Lloyd and Miss O. Whitson**  
The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mr and Mrs David Lloyd, of Stonegate, Sussex, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Whitson, of Bonnyrigg, Scotland.

**Mr N.S. Moutlake and Miss S.D. Ackerman**  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Simon, third son of Mr and Mrs Henry Moutlake, of Wansstead, London, and Suzanne Dale, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Ackerman, of Capetown, South Africa.

**Mr S. Noble and Miss G. Kevis**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.R. Noble, of Rimington, Clitheroe, Lancashire, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Kevis, of Lower Lichfield Farm, Garstang, Lancashire.

## OBITUARY

### LORD TAYLOR

#### Politics and medicine

Lord Taylor, who died on February 1, at the age of 77, combined distinguished work as psychiatrist and sociologist, with a parliamentary career in the House of Commons in the first post-war Labour government, and later, in the House of Lords. He helped in the formulation of the Labour Party's health and education programmes during the parliament of 1945-50.

His professional life was one of great variety, and included war service in the Royal Naval Reserve, and periods in Canada where, on one occasion, he settled a doctors' strike. Later, he served as Visiting Professor of Medicine at the Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Stephen James Lake Taylor was born on December 30, 1910, and went to Stowe and London University, qualifying at St Thomas's Hospital. He specialised in industrial medicine and mental health and was the first physician to diagnose the problem of loneliness among housewives.

He was a neuro-psychiatric specialist in the RNVF, but in 1941 was claimed by the Ministry of Information, where he was Director of Home Intelligence, and also set up and directed the War-time Social Survey.

His ideas on a National

Health Service were also developing, and he wrote a series for the *Spectator* on the subject.

He had meanwhile joined the Labour Party, and drafted many health policy documents for it, which had a bearing on the subsequent shape of the National Health Service. In 1945 he resigned his Ministry post to stand as a Labour candidate in the general election. Elected for Barnet, he served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council, and Deputy Prime Minister, from 1947 to 1950.

He lost his seat to Reginald Maudling in the general election of 1950, but continued active as an industrial consultant. From 1950 to 1964 he was a member of Harlow New Town Development Corporation, and served for two periods as medical director of Harlow's industrial health service. He also wrote his classic survey *Good General Practice*, in 1951.

Taylor was busy on a number of public bodies, among them the Beveridge Commission on Broadcasting and the Cohen Committee on General Practice within the NHS.

One of his more unusual assignments stemmed from his experience in helping to design the National Health Service. In 1962 the Government of Saskatchewan found itself beset by a doctors' strike, and Lord Taylor (he had been made a Life Peer — one of the first — in 1958) went out to Canada to try and resolve it.

### MR JAMES KILLIAN

Mr James Killian, jun., who laid the groundwork for the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, died on January 29. He was 83.

Killian was no scientist. He was an administrator who understood both science and scientists and who could get men to work together towards a common goal.

When the Russians streaked ahead in the race for space with the launch of Sputnik I in 1957, American shock was total. Eisenhower reacted swiftly to redress the balance, and appointed Killian his special assistant for science and technology, with undefined powers.

James Rhyme Killian was born on July 24, 1904. He left his native South Carolina after two years at what is now Duke University and went as a student of "business and engineering administration" to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

He was admitted on the campus for his flair of engineering and gift for journalism. He edited the students' newspaper in his spare time, and a few years after graduating, edited, from 1930 to 1939, the institute's own periodical *The Technology Review*.

His name first became a byword in the inner circles of government in 1941 when he re-organized the institute for a

massive research job in association with the War Production Board.

He became president of the institute in 1949. "We must continue", he declared in a rousing inaugural address, "to muster the democratic ranks of American scientists into invincible battalions".

Within the year he was brought into the government service by Truman, advising the Office of Defense Mobilization on science matters. In an age of suspicion, Killian resisted a move by the Massachusetts State attorney-general to compile a list of "subversive" organizations and publicly opposed the banning of alleged subversives from working for the state.

For some years he had been a voice in the wilderness, warning that the Russians would take a "clear lead" in developing an intercontinental ballistic missile unless the United States radically revised its policies.

And, before a sullen Congressional committee, he suggested a drastic reformation of the armed services and a transfer of funds from the stockpiling of conventional weapons to the subsidising of basic research in the universities.

When Eisenhower called on him in the wake of the Sputnik launch, Killian promised to move "as rapidly as

possible . . . to integrate American science in every proper way into national policymaking".

He divided his time between MIT and the White House, where he was chairman of both the Army Science Advisory Panel and of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities, keeping a watch on the CIA.

The fruit of these efforts was the birth of NASA, a civilian organization which put American aerospace research "under one roof" and put an end to the resource and time-consuming squabbles between the armed services. The first American went into space in 1961, and the first man landed on the moon in 1969.

Killian left two years later, in 1959, his work done.

In his later years he held various business appointments, and had numerous awards conferred upon him.

James Killian was a notable product of the "managerial revolution". He kept the lines open between inventor, research student, philanthropist, manufacturer, and government.

His recreations were landscape painting and collecting first editions of the novels of George Meredith.

He married, in 1929, Elizabeth Parks, and they had a son and a daughter.

### SIR RAYMOND WALTON

Sir Raymond Walton, who died on January 29, at the age of 72, was a Judge of the High Court, Chancery Division, from 1973 until his retirement at the beginning of the present law term, January 11.

In an age when judicial "characters" were becoming less common, Walton was a distinct "character". He combined a swift and often devastating assessment of the merits of a case (sometimes earlier than was wise, but rarely wrong) with a facility for colourful expression, a sharp wit, and an impatience with anything which he considered slipshod or second-rate.

Those who had experience of him found that his bark was a lot worse than his bite. At the Bar, his powers of advocacy won him a substantial practice.

In private, he was an entertaining and amusing companion, though given

sometimes to uncomfortable frankness. He was a man of industry, combining an extensive practice both as junior and silk (and, latterly, his duties on the Bench) with the editorship of a number of important legal text books.

Raymond Henry Walton was born on September 9, 1915, the son of Herbert Henry Walton, a well-known senior managing clerk with Slaughter and May. He was educated at Dulwich College and at Balliol, where he was an open scholar in mathematics.

While at Oxford, he was President of the Union. As a young man he was politically active as a Liberal and took part in the Jarrow march. Later, in 1945, he stood, unsuccessfully, for the Liberals at North Lambeth.

He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1939. The only intervention of Mr and Mrs Walton was in 1940 to 1946 as an instructor and experimental

officer, in the Anti-Aircraft Artillery.

In 1963, he took Silk, and he became a Bencher of his Inn in 1970. Following the sudden death of Mr Justice Ungood-Thomas in December, 1972, Walton was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Chancery Bench. Despite his undoubted abilities, he was never appointed to the Court of Appeal. For many years he was legal correspondent for *The Financial Times*, and in 1973 he became deputy editor of the *Boundaries Commission for England*.

He was a devout Christian who, before his elevation to the Bench, served the Church of England for four years as a Church Commissioner. He was also a keen philatelist.

His wife, Helen, whom he married in 1940, survives him with their son and daughter (another daughter died before him).

### HOWARD CLEWES

Howard Clewes, novelist and screen writer, died on January 29, at the age of 75. He turned several of them into screenplays, most notably, perhaps, the Trevor Howard/Marlon Brando re-make of *Mutiny on the Bounty*.

He was a founder member of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain and one of its first trustees.

Howard Charles Vivian Clewes was born on October 27, 1912. During the 1930s he worked in various advertising agencies. He published his first novel when he was nineteen. He was a major in the Green Howards during the war, and the manuscript of his second novel, *Dead Ground*, went with him in his haversack throughout the Tunisian campaign.

After the war he joined the Foreign Office as press and information officer for northern Italy, but he resigned after the success of *Dead Ground*.

With his Italian wife, Renata, who had been active in the Italian Resistance, he

lived in the Dolomites where he wrote *The Unforgotten* and *The Mask of Wisdom*.

In the Dolomites, Clewes wrote, skied, and cut timber. He also spoke no English for eighteen months. He and his wife then lived in Florence and Capri for a year before moving to Milan, Venice, and, finally, to London.

Other novels followed, among them *The Long Memory*. Clewes turned several into successful screen plays, among them *Green Grow the Rushes* and *The Day they Robbed the Bank of England*.

Mr Jack Evans, MBE, a Grimsby trawler skipper who came to prominence during the first "Cod War" between Britain and Iceland, in 1958, has died at the age of 91.

He did valuable work as a liaison officer between the Royal Navy's patrolling ships and the trawler fleet during a period of considerable tension which resulted from the Icelandic government's decision to prohibit the entry of British vessels inside a 12-mile limit.

One of the great characters among Grimsby deep water skippers, Evans was appointed MBE for his service on Arctic convoys in 1942, and was subsequently awarded the Croix de Guerre for his work off the Normandy beaches.

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## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## Blaming the book

I happened to be living in New York in 1980, a few blocks away from where John Lennon was shot on December 8. It is difficult to convey the local feelings about the murder: grief and outrage, certainly, but also a lack of surprise. To put it very crudely, given the atmosphere of the city, it is surprising that more celebrities were not shot. The pathology of celebrity worship and its opposite pole, celebrity-hate, lay behind this killing, but they never emerged in open court as Mark Chapman pleaded guilty to the crime and the full investigation was never made public.

First Tuesday (ITV) attempted its own investigation, and would have made an ideal radio programme, since it concentrated on Chapman's bizarre psychological make-up and used tapes of his conversations with the police. But to make it work on television, it had to resort to absurdities such as pictures of a disembodied tape recorder playing in an empty cell.

That reservation apart, this was a compelling hour. All the signs of instability were there to see: manic-depressive tendencies, a suicide attempt, and an inability to engage with the adult world, relying instead on friendship with children. But the sinister added factor was Chapman's reliance on a work of fiction as inspiration: J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* provided a precise model of the alienation which Chapman felt from the phony, hypocritical world of adults. Lennon, it seemed to him, was a childhood hero who had gone soft, brought a large and comfortable estate, and represented the betrayal of the adult world.

Thus far the programme was valuable. But when it went further and talked of the book as a murder weapon — stories can kill — on the ground that Chapman had it with him at the killing, it turned into sensationalist nonsense.

William Holmes

Tennessee Williams's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* opens tonight at the National Theatre, the first British production since Peter Hall gave it its controversial premiere, 30 years ago. Director Howard Davies (right) talked to Chris Peachment

From a playwright with whom we usually associate steam and magnolia, the published "notes for the designer" in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* come as something of a surprise. Tennessee Williams speaks of the upper bed-sitting-room of Big Daddy's large Victorian plantation house with characteristic tenderness but paints an unusually cool, lyrical picture.

It is a place poetically haunted by the ghost of two old bachelors who once owned the plantation and lived together in the room. And a place in which there is "a quality of tender light on weathered wood, such as porch furniture made of bamboo and wicker, exposed to tropical suns and tropical rains... bringing to mind the grace and comfort of the light, the reassurance it gives, on a late and fair afternoon in summer, the way that no matter what, even death of death, is gently touched and soothed by it."

Rest assured, however, that is just about the last grace note in a play which follows on with Williams's familiar knock-down drag-out cat fight between the various sexes on display.

There is Brick (played by Ian Charleson), the one-time sports star with his ankle in plaster, drinking himself into all round impotence. There is the Cat of the title, his childless wife (Lindsay Duncan), homing in on his every vulnerable nerve and then twisting the knife. And there is his father, Big Daddy, (Eric Porter) dying of cancer and poisoning all around him. In between verbally clubbing each other senseless, however, they are given to great soaring cadenzas of poetic self examination.

"I find that American plays are very, very good on character," says the director Howard Davies, "and less good on structure and plot, although this one is in fact well constructed. The thing about British writing is that it always tends to say something about the state of the nation. And our usual mode of expression is self-deprecatory and ironic. Especially irony. The Foreign Office has spent all its life saying

one thing and meaning its exact opposite.

"Whereas O'Neill can take a bar-room full of drunks, and make us comment on the society much more invisible. There is a strange poetry about these people who go off into long self-expressive riffs, which are not remotely naturalistic. It is just like when you meet Americans for the first time, they are so open and hospitable and honest about themselves, that it's a bit embarrassing."

This is Davies's first production since rowing across the river from the National Theatre, a trip taken by Sir Peter Hall, but surprisingly not much copied since. Davies ran the highly successful Warehouse for some five years, a travail which he found so exhausting that, when Trevor Nunn offered him the Pit at the Barbican, his response was "Aaah, no, please, no."

After announcing his departure from the RSC with no particular place to go ("bad for the nerves, especially if you're not single"), it was only a matter of three weeks before he was invited by Hall to come to the National to do three plays.

With the next regime under Richard Eyre, he will become a more permanent fixture as an Associate Director with a company to call his own. The record of his productions: three plays by Edward Bond, Brecht, O'Neill and Saroyan, mixed in among David Edgar, David Mercer and Trevor Griffiths, would suggest a man more at home in the Royal Court.

"It is interesting that the theatres which have made their mark historically have always been committed to new writing. Reviving and re-examining the classics is a necessary function in order to know where you stand in history, and they should be done by the big subsidized companies, or else more radically, by people like Check by Jowl."

"It is only 30 years since this play was first done, and yet it feels as though I'm doing a history piece. The



central figure, Brick, seems like so many of those disaffected youths of the Fifties, of whom James Dean is the archetype.

"He will not subscribe to his father's code of ethics. He will not accept the inherited mantle of materialism, on which American society was founded in those days; he wants to fight this kind of empire. And yet he lacks the voice to say so."

"And so he is destroying his life through drink, while still trying to define. All those film heroes then were men who wanted to be sensitive. Indeed rather androgynous. It may be the first time that men became sex objects, the first time they were seen as sexy."

"There is a greater problem for Lindsay Duncan, playing Cat, which is to try to remove oneself to a world

before there was a feminist consciousness. It is very hard to imagine what it must have been like.

"To create a woman tearing herself apart in a sexual contest with her husband and not raise feminist issues, one has to be very selective about her way of doing things and not turn her into a heroine." It is interesting to note that Williams himself altered the third act of the play, at the original director Elia Kazan's request, partly because he felt increasingly charmed by the character of Maggie the Cat and wanted her to be more clearly sympathetic to the audience.

Williams had the reputation of writing great meaty roles for women, and Maggie the Cat is no exception. It is instructive and also plausible, in the mind's eye, to imagine the role embodied by a man. But that would be another story.

## New age, old wave

As a three-day showcase of New Age music begins at the Purcell Room, David Sinclair considers the quiet success of recent years

"Founded in a small cottage on the island of Hawaii... with three recordings... and a dream. Today... the dream continues. We bring to you now, music from our hearts."

No, it's not a travel brochure from 1968, but the sleeve notes to a Global Pacific sampler album called *The Fruits of Our Labor*, which is the current best-selling title in the New Age section at Tower Records, Piccadilly Circus. The racks there are stuffed with records and CDs by artists such as Andreas Vollenweider, Kitaro and George Winston, hardly household names, but already worldwide million-selling acts.

So far however, attempts to stage New Age concerts have had mixed results. There were early departures from Harold Budd and Roger Eno's shows last November, and one critic swiftly left a recent Michael Nyman recital deafened and dismayed.

Undeterred, Nick Austin, the owner of the first British New Age record label, Coda, is promoting a three-day showcase of his company's acts at the Purcell Room, starting tonight with Stephen Caudel and Claire Hamill. "The future for this type of music is people being seen playing live," he says. "Part of the New Age concept is for the public to be able to go out and see live artists again in comfortable surroundings."

The problem seems to be in

identifying and satisfying the needs of an extremely ill-defined audience.

The handy cliché is to say that New Age is wallpaper music for yuppies, a theory reinforced by reports from America, of harassed businessmen being advised by medical "experts" to use ambient music as a psychological tool for relieving stress. Austin draws certain distinctions here: "Musically you're giving artists paint brushes and letting them paint something. Wallpaper is when you get a roller to do the job. When you give somebody an easel and some oils and a canvas, that's painting. British New Age is impressionist painting, as opposed to some of the American ambient stuff, which I agree can be more like decorating."

But as well as throwing up an army of new acts, New Age is also rehabilitating many an old star from the Seventies and before. Rick Wakeman's *Country Airs* album is Coda's best-selling release to date. The Purcell Room dates feature sets by the guitarist Michael Chapman, (best remembered for his 1970 album with Mick Ronson, *Fully Qualified Survivor*), the keyboardist Eddie Hardin, (formerly of the Spencer Davis Group and Hardin & York) and Claire Hamill.

Hamill's case is typical. Having built a modest reputation as a folk singer/songwriter and guitarist in the early Seventies, her career took a nosedive during punk, a period she remembers as a nightmare. Now she has found New Age and all is well again.

"I feel like I've reverted to how I was when I first came into the business: young and full of general bonhomie," she says. To her, New Age music has nothing but positive values. "There's so many things about today, like the terrible pace of living, that take away from us. You need beautiful music to fill you back up again."

## Still a delightful ear-bash

## THEATRE

## A Wholly Healthy Glasgow

Twelve months ago, after the premiere of this Mobil prize-winning play in Manchester, I described it as a rich, unpredictable comedy, and the funniest play I have seen in months.

Now in London, after near capacity business at Manchester and in Edinburgh, Iain Hoggie's dialogue again comes bashing at the ear with a rare ripeness, packed with expletives and elaborate insults, unprintable in a family newspaper; the rhythms in his power struggle between the three characters will still be unpredicted by a newcomer; but, though I have not recently seen a funnier play, a subtle change in the production obliges me to modify my earlier rapture.

A sickness has come into some of the playing, born I dare say of the cast's long familiarity with their roles. Tom Watson is queenier in his gestures as the bent masseur,



Gerard Kelly (left), Paul Higgins and Tom Watson

spreading his fingers wider and tucking in the corners of his mouth more often. But otherwise there is none of the playing for laughs that tempts performers long used to each other and over-familiar with what pleases an audience. Yet, without the shock effect contained in that first performance, the occasions when the action slows to a crawl are too frequent, and when this occurs, the vivid language looks in danger of disappearing up its own arseholes.

The move from Manchester's open stage to

proscenium arch has forced alterations to Sue Plummer's designs. The potted plants in the massage room are taller; unnecessary lights snake around the words "Spartan Health Club" above the stage, and a painted frieze shows toughies doing inspiring acts with weights.

In these seedy premises in a Glasgow back street, the masseur and the senior instructor, the one bent, the other crooked, have established a profitable system that brings extra cash to the instructor and to the masseur, a string of clients ready to avail themselves of his magic hands, the ambiguously termed *après massage*.

The three actors inhabit their roles with the confidence of long experience, and the character of Murdoch Caldwell, with his transfixing honesty and angelic trust in the wisdom of his superiors, is a sublimely comic role. I cannot imagine seeing the performance of Paul Higgins bettered.

Jeremy Kingston

## OPERA

## Cendrillon

Royal College of Music

It will, I hope, only be a matter of time before we are hearing more of Massenet in the big houses than just his *Werther* and *Manon*. The Royal College of Music are showing the way this week, in a production of his 14th opera, *Cendrillon*, which I could imagine taking its place without too much discomfort in the Coliseum's own fairy-tale stable.

This is a *Cendrillon* close enough to Perrault to provide truly Gallic enchantment and whimsicality, and far enough away from Rossini's *Cendrillon* to switch the attention from the comic hurly-burly of the ugly sisters

## Strange and wonderful fairies and flunkies

to the parents. The dominating step-mother (Bridget Budge) and the loving father (Guy Harbottle) remind us that Massenet's public was the one which provided French with his first patients...

Marc Adam, directing for the College, doesn't labour the point. His skill, like that of his designer, Richard Ballwinkle, is to combine emotional naturalism and the high fantastic, in a production which brings a new style of operatic chic to College staging. The problem of handling chorus and dance — all fairies and flunkies in a small space — is solved neatly. Led by Massenet's bizarre roll-call of Master of Ceremonies, Dean, Prime Minister and King, they peer and peck, costumed in rich purples and carmines, round the angles of a single, tilted, black dais.

A huge midnight clock face dominates Act Two, in which the Prince reveals himself as a proper little Werther ("tous les jours sont amoureux"). And a rising moon (identical to the one in ENO's *Hansel and Gretel*) reveals the fairy god-mother, as the air clears for Cendrillon's own yearning arias. Anne Kanne, as the Fairy (the production is double cast) found her tinkly coloratura testing; Linda Clemens was an excitable, nervous

Cendrillon, bright and supple enough for her most athletic music.

Despite Massenet's wish for a soprano, this Prince Charming is cast as a tenor, and Philip Sheffield sang with ardour and style. The English find Massenet's arching melodies, with their emotionally charged yet finely nuanced contours, so difficult: James Lockhart, conducting the RCM Sinfonia, lessened the anxiety and was a strong advocate for this oddly proportioned yet strange and wonderful pageant of entertainment.

Hilary Finch

## JAZZ

## Flora Purim

Ronnie Scott's, London

It is more than 20 years since Brazil enjoyed a brief moment of jazz glory, when the João Gilberto and his associates attracted the interest of established artists such as Stan Getz. For a while, singers such as Astrud Gilberto (falsely appearing at Hammersmith Odeon on Sunday) seemed the last word in cool sophistication.

Gilberto's contemporary, Flora Purim — now based in the United States — has survived by adapting to the demands of both pop and jazz. With her husband, Airto Moreira, she was a member of the first Return To Forever band in the early 1970s.

Purim's current backing group, The Celebration Band, is a slick electric quintet of the kind which works to best effect in a dance venue rather than a night club. Dominated by Moreira's sprawling percussion kit, the group moved with ease from traditional samba to more contemporary, David Sanborn-style jazz-funk. Purim wisely kept a rein on the more extended instrumental tunes as she switched between English and Portuguese.

After the breathless opening themes, Purim was in more reflective mood on one of her most familiar numbers, Milton Nascimento's "Nothing Will Be As It Was", a song covered on Sarah Vaughan's latest LP. Accompanied at first only by keyboard and percussion, Purim allowed the beat to ebb and flow before bringing in the rest of the band for the driving, up-tempo passages.

Clive Davis



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**BOOKING KEY**  
★ Seats available  
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THEATRE  
LONDON

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT:** Hit black blues show, with Carol Woods, Maria Friedman, Helen Geller and Peter Straker singing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago hotel. Piccadilly Theatre, Denham Street, W1 (01-437 4506). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm and 9-11pm, £8.50-£14.50. (D)

★ **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF:** Lindsay Duncan and Ian Charleson in Tennessee Williams' drama of sexual frustration and rebellion in the Deep South. With Eric Porter as Big Daddy. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2232). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.45pm, Sat 8-10.45pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £10-£13.

★ **CHILDREN OF THE DUST:** First play by short story writer Ann Ayton about a Vietnam vet (Leonard Graden) who brings his American wife home to meet his family. Soho Poly Theatre, 18 Riding House Street, W1 (01-636 9050). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £5-£10. £2.75-£4.50.

★ **DANGEROUS OBSESSION:** Transfer of better than average revenge thriller. Politically smug Detective Inspector James Bullock and Hillary Tindall over the coals. Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, WC2 (01-636 2238). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.45pm, Sat 8-10.45pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £5-£10. £2.75-£4.50.

★ **KID'S STUFF:** Australian mime Julie Forsyth as a small boy discovering the richness of life in a play by the Frenchman Raymond Cousse. Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham Street, WC2 (01-240 8230). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £5-£10. £2.75-£4.50.

★ **KIT AND THE WIDOW:** Devilishly witty double act. Kit Smith and Julie Forsyth as a small boy discovering the richness of life in a play by the Frenchman Raymond Cousse. Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham Street, WC2 (01-240 8230). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £5-£10. £2.75-£4.50.

★ **LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET:** Wicked Lady (D) Bonchiusi swashes husband down well, tries to burn witness and goes mad in 45 minutes of hurtling melodrama. An early Shakespearian production. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-636 8891). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £5-£10. £2.75-£4.50.

## WORD-WATCHING

Arrows from page 22

**CELESTINE**  
(b) Pale green: according to Litré, remarkably and I have problems believing it, it was named after Celestine, the name of the languorous gallant in the *Astaire*.

**ISABEL**  
(c) According to Isaac D'Saizel Isabel of Austria, daughter of Philip II, at the siege of Ostend vowed not to change her linen until the city was taken. The siege lasted three years. The same unperceptive and absurd folk etymology is told about Isabella of Castile besieging Granada. Don't believe either.

**CYAN**  
(d) Dark blue in the designation of certain bluish salts and minerals, from the Greek *kyaneros* a dark blue mineral.

**AMARANTHINE**  
(e) From flowers of the genus *Amaranthus* such as *Love-lies-bleeding*, rather than the romantic but imaginary amaranth or flower that never dies.

★ **SEASCAPE WITH SHARKS AND DOLPHINS:** Christopher Maltum and Holly de Jong in European premiere of Don Nigro play: desire and domination in a Cape Cod beachhouse. Fendburgh Theatre Club, Fendburgh Arms, 118 Fendburgh Road, SW10 (01-373 3842). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £5.50 plus 50p membership.

★ **THE SECRET LIFE:** First ever production of Graham Smith's play about the private lives behind public faces. Geoffrey Beavers plays the politician with the secret. Orange Tree Theatre, Kew Road, Richmond (01-840 3633). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £5.50.

★ **A TOUCH OF THE POET:** Vanessa Redgrave and Timothy Dalton star in Eugene O'Neill's last play: illusions of grandeur in a lyrical and emotional drama. Young Vic Theatre, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-928 6363). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £7.50.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queens Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3038). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ Chess: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8951). ★ Follies: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-373 5089). ★ 42nd Street: Drury Lane Theatre (01-636 8108/9). ★ High Society: Victoria Palace Theatre (01-634 6009). ★ Kiss Me Kate: Savoy Theatre (01-336 8888). ★ Las Vegas: Palace Theatre (01-434 6009). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-636 1443). ★ Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-636 2244). ★ Ragged Dicks: Criterion Theatre (01-930 3216). ★ Serious Money: Wyndham's Theatre (01-636 3028). ★ Stephen Sondheim's Apollo Theatre (01-628 8665). ★ And Then There Were None: Duke of York's Theatre (01-636 5122).

★ **OUT OF TOWN**  
★ **CHICHESTER:** ★ The Wars of the Roses: Michael Bogdanov's touring production of Shakespeare's seven dramatic plays. Mighty cast led by Michael Pennington. Chichester Theatre, Chichester Park, Chichester (0243 781312). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 10.30am, 3pm, 7.30pm, Wed 2.30pm, £7-£12.

★ **CROYDON:** ★ Haven't a Clue: Wicked Lady (D) Bonchiusi swashes husband down well, tries to burn witness and goes mad in 45 minutes of hurtling melodrama. An early Shakespearian production. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-636 8891). Tue-Fri 8-10pm, Sat 8-10pm, Sun 2-5.15pm. £5-£10. £2.75-£4.50.

★ **LIVERPOOL:** ★ Passion Play: Husband and wife struggle against their talkative inner selves in Peter Nichols' bitter comedy about marital straying. Playhouse, Williamson Square (051 708 8363). Mon-Thurs 7.30-9.50pm, Fri and Sat 8-10.20pm, £3-£6.

★ **LE ROUX REGATTA:** The distinguished Francoise Le Roux sings Duparc, Poulenc, Fauré, Liszt, Hahn. Jeff Cohen accompanies. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-925 2141). 7.30pm, £5-£5.

★ **LITTON/DONOHUE:** The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic is conducted by Andrew Litton in Beethoven's Leonore Overture No 3 and Rachmaninov's Symphony No 3. In between Peter Donohoe solos in Britten's Piano Concerto. Philharmonie, Cadogan Square, London SW1 (01-708 3789). 7.30pm, £3-£5.50.

★ **HOPE AND GLORY (15):** John Boorman's autobiographical account of an ordinary family living through the extraordinary days of the London blitz. With actress and screenwriter with Sebastian Rice-Edwards and Sammi Davis (113 min). Cannon Tontenham Court Road, £25 (01-437 1234). Progs 1.15, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. (D)

★ **BEVERLY HILLS COP II (15):** Eddie Murphy repeats his performance as the brazen Detroit cop on a job in Los Angeles. Tony Scott directs (103 min). Plaza (01-437 1234). Progs 1.15, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. (D)

★ **KING LEAR (15):** Jean-Louis Godard's aggroveraging, irreverent film, partly inspired by Shakespeare's play, with a cast encompassing theatre director Peter Sellers (as the playwright).

★ **THE FOREIGNER**  
★ **THE WINTER TALE**  
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★ **MAURICE (15):** Set before the First World War, E.M. Forster's novel about Orlando, a young man who lives as a woman. Canon Fendburgh Theatre (01-373 3842). Progs 1.40, 3.40, 5.40, 7.40, 9.40.

★ **NADINE (15):** Lightweight diversion from writer-director Robert Benton, with Jeff Bridges and Kim Basinger as a Texas couple primed for divorce but drawn together by a suspiciously deadly sex scene. Canon Fendburgh Theatre (01-373 3842). Progs 1.40, 3.40, 5.40, 7.40, 9.40.

★ **SAMMY AND ROSIE GET LAID (18):** Another trip through our harsh urban jungle, previously explored by director Stephen Frears and writer Hanif Kureishi in *My Beautiful Laundrette*. With Ayub Khan Din, Frances Barber, Claire Bloom and Shashi Kapoor (105 min). Progs 1.40, 3.40, 5.40, 7.40, 9.40.

★ **GILBERT AND SULLIVAN (15):** The world premiere of *Gilbert and Sullivan's* *The Gondoliers*. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). 7.30pm, £2-£4.

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## Oh what a dreary war!

Roger Fenton was one of the first war photographers, best known for the pictures he took in 1855 on the battlefields of the Crimea. His study of Lieutenant-Colonel Halliwell (above right) is typical. He punctured the heroic view of war which until then had been shared by many Victorians. There is no glint of light on drawn sabre, rather a dreary ordinariness. The soldiers are shown to be living a monotonous existence behind the lines. The generals, far from being the romantic figures of popular myth, are dirt on their boots and dust in their hair. He also exposed the war's mismanagement and what the photographs exhibited they were a revelation.

Born into a Lancashire cotton and banking family, Fenton studied as a painter before taking up the law. His interest in photography was given a decisive boost by the Great Exhibition of 1851 and his work ranged from landscapes and architectural studies to still life. He spent a decade as a photographer before mysteriously giving it up, but he had established himself as the most important photographer of the day. *Roger Fenton: Photographer of the 1850s* opens tomorrow at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3144). Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12pm-4pm, £3. Until April 17. Michael Sunday

DAVID BOMBARD: A show of works on paper continues the revival of interest in this fascinating and changeable artist. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until March 18.

DOUGLAS COOPER AND THE MASTERS OF CUBISM: See Douglas Cooper and the Masters of Cubism. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until March 18.

GEORGINA ALLEN AND JOHN DEANE: Paintings and monographs respectively at a gallery in the heart of the city. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until March 18.

ROSE CECIL: Paintings recording the changing face of London's dockland. Michael Paine Fine Art, 11 Monmouth Street, London SW1 (01-437 8144). Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until March 4.

LET'S MAKE AN OPERA: Highly successful production of Britten's *Let's Make an Opera*. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until March 18.

THE PEARL FISHERS: Scottish Opera's new production of *The Pearl Fishers*. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until March 18.

THE MAGIC FLUTE: Viennese Tausky conducts a small orchestra of students from the Guildhall School of Music in a production by Opera House. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until March 18.

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NOBLE AND PATRIOTIC: A special showing of the 16 pictures given to the newly-formed National Gallery by Sir George Beaumont in 1824. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-437 3331). Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until May 3.

ADRIAN DAINTREY: Figurative paintings and drawings from the 1920s onwards. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until Feb 28.

KATHERINE VIRGILIS: A series of watercolours inspired by the myths, landscape and traditions of India. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until March 4.

TWENTIETH CENTURY WORKS: Assorted paintings and sculpture from Gloucester to Schaeffer. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm, free, until Feb 28.

THERESA OULTON: A new series of paintings collectively entitled *Activities* by a runner-up in last year's Turner Prize. Marlborough Fine Art, 8 Abchurch Lane, London EC4 (01-437 5161). Mon-Fri 10-5.30pm, Sat 10-1pm, 2-5.30pm, free, until Feb 28.

MR CARTWRIGHT'S PICTURES: The 75 paintings which formed the most private collection of actor and bookseller William Cartwright (1807-1888). Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road, London SE21 (01-437 5254). Tue-Sat 10-1pm and 2-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, £1.50, until Feb 28.



## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Peter Davale

## BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM.  
6.35 *Edgar Kennedy in Parlor*.  
Bedroom and Wrath 6.55  
Weather.  
7.00 Breakfast Time includes  
national and international news at  
7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30.  
Regional news and travel reports  
at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15.  
Weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.  
8.30 *Lawrence and Shirley*. American  
comedy series starring Penny  
Marshall and Cindy Williams.  
8.55 Regional news and weather.  
9.00 *Open Air*. Patsy Clinewell receives  
viewers' comments on  
yesterday's television offerings.  
9.20 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk  
chairs a studio discussion on a  
topical subject.  
10.00 News and weather followed by  
Going for Gold (r). 10.20  
Children's BBC. Andy Crane  
with programme news and  
birthday greetings followed by  
Play School (r). The Wombles (r).  
10.55 Five to Eleven. Catherine  
Griller with a reading 11.00 News  
and weather followed by Open  
Air presented by Bob Wellings and  
Patricia Cocksell.  
12.00 News and weather followed by  
Daytime Live. Magazine series  
12.55 Regional news and  
weather.  
1.00 One O'Clock News with  
Michael Buerk. Weather 1.30  
Neighbours. Cherie Chase  
with Medgie over her future. 1.50  
Going for Gold. Eurovision  
general knowledge quiz presented  
by Henry Kelly.  
2.15 Film: *Winner Takes All* (1975)  
starring Shirley Jones, Laurence  
Luckinbill and Sam Groom. A  
made for television drama about a  
compulsive gambler housewife  
who finds a way money saved by  
her second husband to start a  
business venture. Directed by  
Paul Bogart.  
3.50 *Penny's House* (r). 4.00 *Animal  
Fair* with Don Spencer (r). 4.05  
Laurel and Hardy (r).  
11.45 Weather.

## BBC2

- 9.00 Ceefax.  
9.45 Daytime on Two: France and  
the French 10.00 For four-  
and five-year-olds 10.15 Science:  
discovering 108 bones of the  
ways in which people have  
tried to realise the dream of flight  
11.00 Words and pictures  
11.15 Tutorial subjects: *Rumours*  
and *Spitting Image*. The science of  
food 12.05 Words in a  
butcher's and a baker's  
12.25 The personal qualities and  
lifestyle of three young people  
helping in the community 12.50 A  
profile of Sir John Harvey  
Jones 1.20 For the young 1.35  
*Hungry Times*, part one of a  
play set in Norman and Saxons  
times 2.00 News and weather  
followed by a children's story.  
2.15 *Antiques Roadshow* in  
Cambridge (r). (Ceefax)  
3.00 News and weather followed by  
Indoor Hockey. Steve Rider with  
highlights from the qualifying  
matches in the Lucas British Cities  
championship.  
3.50 News, regional news and  
weather.  
4.00 Catchword. Word game  
presented by Paul Coker.  
4.30 The Victorian Kitchen Garden.  
Programme three of the 13-part  
series following the restoration of  
a walled garden. Presented by  
Penny Thorpe and Henry  
Dodson (r). (Ceefax)  
5.00 Film: *The Cure* (1917, b/w)  
starring Charlie Chaplin as an  
alcoholic causing chaos in a  
health spa. Directed by Charlie  
Chaplin.  
5.30 Film 88 introduced by Barry  
Norman (r).  
6.00 Film: *HMS Defiant* (1982)  
starring Dirk Bogarde, Alec  
Guinness and Anthony Quayle.  
Drama on board a ship sailing to  
meet Napoleon's fleet.  
Mutinous outbreaks erupt and  
matters are not helped by the  
captain who tries to run a  
humane ship - against the wishes  
of his alcoholic first-mate.  
Directed by Lewis Gilbert.  
7.40 The Rock of Ball Veera. 1958  
the year Elizabeth Taylor's third  
husband, Mike Todd, died in an  
air-crash, as did members of  
the Manchester United football  
team at Munich airport; General

Dirk Bogarde, Alec Guinness:  
BBC2, 6pm

de Gaulle came out of retirement, there were race riots in  
Nottingham Hill, and Elvis Presley  
joined the US Army. Musical  
memories are provided by  
amongst others, Cliff Richard,  
Chuck Berry and Buddy Holly  
and the Crickets (r).  
6.10 Timewatch: *Wars of the World*.  
(see Choice)  
9.00 M\*A\*S\*H. Hawkeye crashes his  
jeep, miles from the 4077th, and  
sustains a serious head  
wound (r).  
9.25 Campaign: The penultimate  
episode of the drama serial and it  
is two days before the general  
election (Ceefax)  
10.30 Harrison Birtwistle's *Endless  
Parade*. The British television  
premiere of Birtwistle's  
trumpet concerto written  
specifically for the young  
Swedish virtuoso Håkan  
Hardenberg, recorded at  
London's Barbican Centre with  
the BBC Symphony Orchestra  
conducted by the Hungarian Peter  
Eötvös. The performance is  
followed by short interviews with  
music critic Peter Heyworth and  
Eötvös, a former trumpeter and conductor of  
contemporary music.  
10.45 A Party Political Broadcast on  
behalf of the Conservative Party.  
(subtitled for the hearing impaired)  
10.50 Newsnight includes a report  
on the nurses' day of action.  
11.35 Weather.

## ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am  
6.25 Thames News.  
9.30 *Drive Us a Clove*.  
10.00 *Santa Barbara*.  
10.25 News headlines.  
10.30 The Time. The  
Place. Mike Scott, in Norwich,  
puts driving standards to the  
test with the help of race ace  
Martin Brundle and Britain's  
most driver Karen Cullen 11.10  
Albion 11.25 Thames News  
headlines.  
11.30 Women Writers. Barbara  
Taylor Bradford is the first subject  
of a new soap series. From her  
Mayfair apartment she talks  
about writing romances and  
bestsellers 12.00 *Wish You  
Were Here*. ? (r).  
12.30 News with Julia Somerville  
12.50 Thames News.  
1.00 *Chain Letters*. A  
association game presented by  
Jeremy Beadle. Followed by  
Crimestoppers 1.30 A Country  
Practice. Medical drama series  
set in a remote Australian sheep  
township.  
2.30 *Votes for Women* presented by  
Shirley McDonald. Pornography  
and the effects it has on  
women and on men's attitudes to  
women is debated. Among the  
guests is Debbie Raymond, editor  
of *Men Only* magazine.  
3.00 *Gene*. Drama set in London's  
men's rag trade 3.25 Thames  
News headlines 3.30 *Sons  
and Daughters*. Australian family  
drama series.  
4.00 *Red, Jane and Freddy* with a  
musical story of a fishing trip 4.10  
*Tower* (r). 4.20 *The Wind in  
the Willows*. Animated adventures  
of Mr Toad and his friends.  
4.45 C.A.B. Adventure series.  
5.15 *Brain Games*. Knowledge quiz  
game for teenagers presented by Bob  
Holmes.  
5.45 News with Alastair Stewart  
6.00 News headlines.  
6.25 Help with news of the charity  
Support and Housing Assistance  
for people with disabilities in  
Wandsworth.  
6.30 *Emmerdale Farm*.  
7.00 *This is Your Life*. Eamonn  
Andrews surprises Freddie Starr  
on February evening in 1984 (r).  
7.30 *Coronation Street*. Brian  
Tassey's plucking up courage to  
contact Gal while Bet is trying  
to persuade her light-hearted  
husband to take her to a  
belated honeymoon (Oracle)  
8.00 *Singles*. Comedy series about  
four single people. Starring Roger  
Rees, Judy Lee, Eamon Boland  
and Susan Blake. (Oracle)  
8.30 *Never the Twain*. Donald  
Sinden and Windsor Davies star in  
this comedy series about two  
rival antique dealers. (Oracle)  
9.00 *Hannay*. Hannay takes a  
seemingly long time to reach his  
village where he was born and  
finds himself in conflict with the  
locals. Starring Robert Powell  
10.00 A Party Political Broadcast on  
behalf of the Conservative Party.  
10.05 News with Alastair Stewart  
and Sandy Gall. 10.35 Thames News  
10.40 *Midweek Sport Special*  
presented by Nick Owen.  
10.45 *F. C. Cup* fourth  
round replay highlights. Darts: the  
Blackthorn Masters.  
12.20 *News*. The Cheap Detective  
(1979) starring Peter Falk and  
James Caan. When private  
detective Lou Pickens' partner is  
found shot dead in his office Lou  
becomes the chief suspect. Directed by Robert  
Moore.  
2.00 *America's Top Ten* presented  
by Casey Kasem.  
2.30 *Never the Twain*. Comedy  
series followed by  
WKRP in Cincinnati. Comedy  
series.  
3.00 *Film: Witchcraft* (1964, b/w)  
starring Don Chaffey Jr. Thriller  
about a woman who is  
between two families in an English  
village. Directed by Don Sharp.  
4.35 *Fifty Years On*. Vintage  
news series.  
5.00 *ITN World News* 5.30 *CNN  
Headline News*. Ends at 6.00.

## CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 *Schools*.  
12.00 *Business Daily*. Financial and  
business news service presented  
by Susan Lister-Jones.  
12.30 *Just 4 Fun*. For both deaf and  
hearing children.  
1.00 *Tourism: The Welcome*.  
Business. This fourth of five  
programmes looks at an Open  
College course examines large  
groups of customers and how to  
cope with them using a coach  
party to Longlat as an  
example. Presented by Emma  
Fraud. (Oracle)  
4.10 *Working Wonders*. The fourth  
programme in a series of 10 about  
writing at work. Rob Grant and  
Julie May, leading scriptwriters of  
*Spitting Image*, demonstrate  
how the programme is put  
together. (Oracle)  
5.00 *The Parliament Programme*.  
1990 Film: *The Cisco Kid and the  
Lady* (1939, b/w) starring Cesar  
Romero, Marjorie Weaver and  
George Montgomery. Western  
adventure in which a dying  
gold prospector entrusts his baby  
daughter to the care of a  
map of his mine to an itinerant  
cowboy who goes in search of  
the murderer and the other two  
thirds of the map. Directed by  
Herbert Lewis.  
5.30 *Mega Game Stirling*. The  
myopic hero misses a turning and  
climbs a man-killing mountain  
in order to find a diamond.  
4.00 *Marie on 4*. Mavis Nicholson  
talks to best-selling novelist  
Catherine Cookson in her  
Northumberland home.  
4.30 *Fifteen-to-One*. Fast-moving  
general knowledge quiz game  
presented by William G.  
Stewart.  
5.00 *The Amateur Naturalist*. Part  
three of Gerald and Lee Durrell's  
13-programme series and they  
explore a quiet pond in Kent (r).  
(Oracle)  
5.30 *Dream of Jeanne*. Vintage  
American comedy series starring  
Barbara Eden and Larry  
Hagman.  
6.00 *Family Ties*. American sitcom  
series starring Michael J Fox and  
Meredith Baxter Birney.  
Today, Alex and the Keaton family  
are marooned indoors over  
Christmas by a blizzard.

## VARIATIONS

- BBC1 WALSLEY 6.30am-6.50  
News Today 6.55-7.00 News  
Today 7.05-7.15 News and weather  
Today 7.20-7.30 News and weather  
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Today 5.05-5.15 News and weather  
Today 5.20-5.30 News and weather  
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Today 9.05-9.15 News and weather  
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Today 9.50-10.00 News and weather  
Today 10.05-10.15 News and weather  
Today 10.20-10.30 News and weather  
Today 10.35-10.45 News and weather  
Today 10.50-11.00 News and weather  
Today 11.05-11.15 News and weather  
Today 11.20-11.30 News and weather  
Today 11.







WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1988

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1420.1 (-3.0)  
FT-SE 100  
1774.4 (-2.5)  
Bargains  
24230 (27907)  
USM (Datastream)  
147.52 (+0.26)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7685 (+0.0105)  
W German mark  
2.9773 (+0.0001)  
Trade-weighted  
74.4 (+0.2)

'Insider' inquiry at Shield

Government inspectors are investigating a possible case of insider dealing in the shares of Shield Group, the USM-quoted housebuilder. Their appointment was prompted by a 50 per cent rise in the Shield share price to 240p in the ten days before news of a £12 million financing deal by Mr Gerald Rouson's Heron Corporation last March.

Following a report in *The Times* yesterday the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed that an official investigation into dealings in Shield shares between December 1 1986 and March 20 1987 has been in progress since November 5.

In a statement last night Shield said it knew of "no such contraventions by the directors who are co-operating fully with the inspectors in their investigations."

It is understood that the DTI's attention was alerted by the Stock Exchange, which investigates all unusual share price movements.

**Unitech up**

Unitech, the electronics group, reported pretax profits up 16 per cent to £6.3 million in the six months to end-November, but warned that second-half results would be similar to those for the same period last year. Sales increased by 3 per cent to £105 million. An interim dividend of 3.1p was declared (26p).

*Times*, page 24

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	1988.83 (-5.80)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	23672.21 (-60.11)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2286.50 (-59.77)
Amsterdam	Amsterdam Gen	220.5 (-1.0)
Sydney	Sydney AO	1240.6 (+0.1)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1232.1 (+0.0)
Brussels	Brussels	3886.7 (+20.2)
Paris	Paris CAC	254.7 (+2.9)
Zurich	Zurich S&K Gen	404.7 (-13.2)
London	FT-All Share	1420.1 (-3.0)
	FT-500	1000.46 (-0.98)
	FT-Gold Mines	257.3 (+4.5)
	FT-Fixed Interest	95.68 (+0.31)
	FT-Govt Secs	89.35 (+0.18)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

SES:		
Turnbull Scott	555p	(+30p)
Fisher	1082p	(+39p)
Bulough	475p	(+30p)
C	437p	(+50p)
Henderson Admin	700p	(+25p)
Church	450p	(+10p)
Central TV	533p	(+11p)
Cullens	865p	(+25p)
Lloyds	250p	(+11p)
Genetec	110p	(+10p)
M Clark	388p	(+10p)
Yale & Vitor	280p	(+11p)

FALLS

GRE	864p (-18p)
Legal & General	274p (-13p)
Parsons Knott 'A'	745p (-30p)
Prudential	1024p (-25p)
CD Brimall	600p (-15p)
Ely (Whitbread)	305p (-20p)
Unitec	193p (-22p)
Imvur	410p (-10p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 9%  
3-month interbank 9.5%  
3-month eligible bills 8.5-8.7%  
buying rate  
US Prime Rate 8.5-9%  
Federal Funds 6.1-6.5%  
3-month Treasury bills 5.75-5.71%  
30-year bonds 10.5-10.7%

CURRENCIES

London	New York	£1.7685
	DM	2.9773
	FF	166.35
	Yen	160.38
	Yen	160.38
	Yen	160.38
	Yen	160.38
	Yen	160.38

GOLD

London Gold: 455.15 pm \$455.90  
close \$456.00-456.50 (\$258.00-258.50)  
New York  
Comex \$456.50-456.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar.) pm \$16.25bbl (\$16.25)  
Denotes latest trading price

Bus Roundup 24 Traded Opts 26  
Stock Market 24 Share Prices 27  
Commodities 24 Foreign Exch 28  
City Diary 25 Unit Trusts 28  
Wall Street 26 USM Prices 28

# GrandMet in £150m sale

## Public house disposals 'not linked' to inquiry

By Cliff Feltham

Grand Metropolitan, the brewing and hotels company, is selling nearly 700 tenanted public houses in one of the largest disposals programmes of its kind, expected to raise almost £150 million.

But the group yesterday denied that the surprise announcement was linked to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the future of tied houses.

"There is no connection at all. We are still selling these pubs even if the investigation was not taking place," said the group.

The pubs are being sold in three geographical parcels, and already a number of leading brewers and leisure groups have expressed an interest in bidding. Grand Metropolitan said negotiations were at an advanced stage.

A total of 380 public houses are located in London, the Home Counties and East Anglia, trading under the banner of Manns Northampton Brewery and the Norwich Brewery Company.

Another block of 210 pubs is situated in the North and the Midlands under the umbrella of the Samuel Webster and Wilsons brand. A further 100 pubs are in the South and South-west, operated as part of Watney Combe Reid & Truman. The intention is to find a single buyer for each group.

The properties being sold do not rank as the jewels in the group's brewing crown, and those in rural areas, according to analysts, are probably barely breaking even. As a result, the eventual buyers could very well decide to prune the portfolio by further disposals or even closures.

The planned disposals follow a long ranging review of GrandMet's overall brewing operations.

While the number of public houses being sold is large — and the biggest change of ownership since the Australian Elders DXL group bought the Courage portfolio — it still represents only 12 per cent of the group's total number of public houses, and makes up less than 5 per cent of the estate's beer sales and less than 2 per cent of overall beer sales.

GrandMet pointed out that after the disposals it would be left with 3,600 tenanted pubs and 1,750 managed outlets. Last year, the group earned trading profits of just over £100 million from its brewing activities.

Mr John McGrath, the chairman and managing director of Grand Metropolitan Brewing, said: "The disposal of this group of properties is no reflection on the individual viability of each of the businesses concerned. It simply means these pubs do not fit in with the group's needs for the future, nor with our policy of concentrating on those outlets in which we see special potential."

Analysts immediately started speculating on likely bidders for the pubs. Among those being actively canvassed were Wolverhampton, Dudley Brewery, Devonish, Belhaven, Buckley's, First Leisure, and Midsummer Leisure.

"We will look at the pubs and then take a view, but we are not interested in taking on pubs in deficit areas. They have no real place in the 1990s," said the company.

Mr John Dunsmore of Wood Mackenzie, the broker, said: "GrandMet takes a hard-nosed view of its brewing profits and is right to be clearing out pubs which do not offer the best growth prospects. The money raised can be better spent in areas where it is already investing heavily, such as in the Chef & Brewer and Berni outlets."

GrandMet is officially bowing out of the fight for Martell and tendering the 21.8 per cent stake it has built up in the French cognac house to Seagram, the Canadian spirits group which on Monday offered £525 million for the company. GrandMet will pocket a profit of nearly £40 million, from the sale.

The Martell family, which last week accepted an offer of FF3,300 (£329) a share from GrandMet, has pledged its pivotal 41 per cent stake to the increased FF3,475-a-share offer from Seagram.



Expanding horizons: Stathis Papoutas (left) and Jack Wilson in their office overlooking St Katharine Dock, London (Photograph by Ros Drinkwater)

# London Forfeiting launches £150m USM share sale

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Jack Wilson and Mr Stathis Papoutas, who run London Forfeiting, the trade financing group, are planning to launch their company on the Unlisted Securities Market next week.

The flotation will be significant for several reasons. About £80 million of equity will be involved, making it one of the largest USM offerings. As an offer for sale, it will be the steepest test of investor demand for junior market shares since Black Monday. Thirdly, it will provide investors with an opportunity to invest in a fast-growing company in a highly specialized field of finance.

The company has a short but spectacular record since it was formed in 1984. Mr Wilson and Mr Papoutas were backed by Mr John Gunn, whose British and Commonwealth group has 85 per cent of the equity. B&C's stake will be diluted to 40 per cent after the flotation, which will, subject to market conditions, raise about £40 of fresh capital. Market capitalization will be about £150 million.

Mr Wilson and Mr Papoutas established themselves as leaders in the development of forfeiting during the 1970s. After a spell at Morgan Grenfell, Mr Wilson set up Hungarian International Bank, a London subsidiary of the National Bank of Hungary. The bank produced returns on capital of between 21 per cent and 40 per cent during the six years before Mr Wilson and Mr Papoutas left to found London Forfeiting.

During that time they wrested a sizeable share of the European forfeiting market from Swiss banks which traditionally dominated the business. Forfeiting is a technique whereby exporters sell the debt due from importers to an intermediary, such as London Forfeiting. The debt, usually in the form of promissory notes or bills of exchange, is discounted according to the risks involved and current money market rates. The forfeiter takes the risk of default directly and stands or falls by his judgement. London Forfeiting's bad debt experience runs typically at a minimal 0.1 per cent of assets.

In its first eight months of trading, London Forfeiting made profits of almost £2 million. Analysts say this year £16 million before tax is probable. Advisers to the issue, J Henry Schroder Wagg and Barclays de Zoete Wedd, are finalizing prospectus details although there are few precedents for pricing. The founders are retaining all their shares.

# Dixons joins Wigfalls fray with £16m offer

By Carol Ferguson

Dixons Group, the electricals retail chain, weighed into the battle for Wigfalls, the Midlands electricals retailer, with a £16 million recommended cash offer — £2 million higher than the £14 million all-share offer from Bennett & Fountain.

A programme of aggressive buying in the market at the 225p offer price has taken Dixons' stake in Wigfalls up to 30.1 per cent, at which level it has a Rule Nine unconditional offer. This means it is conditional only on Dixons receiving 50 per cent of Wigfalls and the offer not being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Dixons believes the bid will not be referred to the MMC because Wigfalls' market share is less than 1 per cent and the combination will not change Dixons' position in the market.

Bennett & Fountain, the acquisition-minded electricals wholesaler and retailer based in the South and East of England, said it was undaunted by the Dixons bid, and its directors would be meeting this morning to decide on strategy.

Mr Stephen Coleman, Bennett's finance director, claimed Dixons was buying Wigfalls to keep Bennett & Fountain out. "It is something of a David and Goliath situation, but we are not daunted by it," he added.

Bennett owns 3 per cent of Wigfalls' shares and has irrevocable acceptances for another 25 per cent from big shareholders. These shareholders are tied to Bennett until it bows out of the bidding.

"I don't think we will bow out without having another look because there is merit in the deal, and we see benefit in it for ourselves," Mr Coleman said.

*Times*, page 24

# Cut in US prime rates leads to dollar falls

By Our Economics Correspondent

Leading US banks cut prime rates from 8.75 to 8.5 per cent yesterday after the publication of figures showing further weakness in the US economy.

The prime rate cut, while in line with easier money market interest rates in the US, led to a bout of profit-taking in the dollar. Because of this reaction the Federal Open Market Committee, which meets next week, is likely to be cautious about reducing the official discount rate.

JP Morgan led the rate cut and was quickly followed by other leading banks, including Continental Illinois, Chemical Bank, Citicorp, Chase Manhattan and Bankers Trust.

The dollar fell by a penny to DM1.6835 and from ¥129.33 to ¥128.25. The pound rose by 1.05 cents to \$1.7685.

The US leading indicators fell by 0.2 per cent in December, the Commerce Department said. This was the third successive fall after declines of 0.1 per cent in October and 1.2 per cent in November.

Three successive falls normally indicate an impending recession.

Mr Beryl Sprinkel, the chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, said the fall in the leading indicators showed the economy was slowing.

The dollar fell by a penny to DM1.6835 and from ¥129.33 to ¥128.25. The pound rose by 1.05 cents to \$1.7685.

*Comment*, page 25.

# Smith New Court sells brokerage for £1m

By Joe Joseph

Smith New Court, the securities house, has confirmed it is selling the private client business inherited when it bought Scott Goff Layton, the broker, two years ago. The buyer is National Investment Group, the seven-strong provincial broking network in which it holds a 25.75 per cent stake.

The all-share deal values Smith New Court Investment Services at £1 million and will make Smith New Court the largest shareholder in NIG, whose offices in 23 cities across England and Wales serve more than 100,000 private clients.

Mr Michael Marks, Smith New Court's joint chief executive, said a private client business needed a wide base of clients and the ability to carry out trades at low cost. He said NIG had invested heavily in computer systems.

"We will gain a very strong foothold in the private client business," Mr Marks said.

"We will end up owning something like 30 per cent of NIG and we'll be the largest single shareholder. Strategically we thought it would be most sensible to have all our private client business under one roof."

Under the deal, carried out through NIG's parent company, National Investment Holdings, SNC will be paid an initial 285,000 NIG shares followed by a second tranche of 190,000 shares if certain conditions are met.

# US dissension over response to Black Monday

## Greenspan rejects reforms

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, yesterday strongly opposed stock market reforms under consideration by Congress, which he said would drive business to London and Tokyo.

In Congressional testimony on October's market crash, Mr Greenspan said the shift in business to overseas markets could have a negative, weakening effect on the US economy when Americans are struggling to reduce their enormous deficits.

But influential Congressional officials, expressing their fears that the market could crash again, indicated they may move faster than anyone had anticipated to enact reforms this year by attaching the proposals to a comprehensive banking bill. The reforms could become part of proposed legislation to amend the depression-spawned Glass-Steagall Act, which prevents banks from entering the securities business.

Mr Nicholas Brady, the Wall Street investment banker who headed a presidential commission on the crash, testified there was an urgent need to pass reforms to prevent a recurrence of the October 19 breakdown. "We are looking down the barrel and the gun is still loaded," he said.

The testimony by Mr Brady and by Mr Greenspan illustrated clearly the dissension among market professionals and government regulators over how to respond to the crash.

During the opening days of Senate hearings, the most comprehensive review of Black Monday, officials stated repeatedly their concerns that a heavy-handed response would penalize US markets, driving business overseas.

Overall, there appears to be a growing consensus among Congressional officials that certain steps must be taken to correct deficiencies in the market structure, and that some of these steps may have to be taken quickly, perhaps on an interim basis.

Overall, there was general recognition that a broader regulatory structure encompassing both the securities and futures markets must be created. The Federal Reserve Board was the first choice of most senators to play this broader role.

In addition, Congressional officials agreed that proposed reforms must be fashioned in a global context and that ways must be found to protect small investors. These were the three big issues which emerged.

Mr Brady told a senate committee that some reforms could be enacted without Congressional legislation. For example, he said that the main exchanges should be requested by Congress, and by separate regulatory agencies, to develop one central clearing operation within a six-month period.

The proposal would be strongly denounced by Mr Greenspan, and would require a much more comprehensive system of information gathering. As proposed by the Brady report the new system would require a detailed listing of the time a trade was executed, the amounts purchased, the specific shares spot and the identity of the buyers. Mr Greenspan described the proposal as a clear invasion of privacy.

# Reserves rise limited to \$38m

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

Britain's official reserves rose by just \$38 million (£21.46 million) last month, well below City expectations. The negligible rise, taken in conjunction with Monday's half-point increase in base rates, showed that there has been a marked easing of upward pressure on sterling this year.

Analysts had expected the reserves to rise by \$500 million to \$600 million, after reported intervention by the Bank in support of the dollar last month.

The figures suggest that such intervention was very modest, or that it was balanced by support for the pound later in the month, as sterling fell several pence below the unofficial DM3 ceiling. The pound closed at DM2.977.

The Prime Minister defended Monday's rise in base rates in the House of Commons. "The half per cent increase in interest rates was taken because we are determined to keep inflation down," she said.

"The rise in base rates would have been puzzling if we had had a large increase in the reserves today," said Mr Mike Osborne, the chief economist at Kleinwort Greaveson, the securities house.

Mr Steven Bell, the chief economist at Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, said the Bank may not have intervened in support of the dollar early last month, because of the Chancellor's frustration with the US authorities for not raising interest rates.

The reserves stood at \$43,093 million (£24,346 million) at the end of last month, an actual fall of \$1,233 million compared with their level of \$44,326 million (£23,490 million) at the end of December.

There were accruals of borrowing under the exchange cover scheme of \$93 million, repayments of such borrowing of \$338 million and repayments of other public sector debt under the scheme of \$166 million.

After allowing for these and the quarterly rollover of the European Monetary Co-operation Fund swap of \$660 million, the actual fall converted to an underlying rise of \$38 million.

Last year, the reserves rose by \$22 billion, or nearly \$2 billion a month on average. This increase was concentrated in the period immediately before the June general election, and in the final quarter of the year.

*Comment* 25

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Dolphin marks debut with rise to £1.23m

Dolphin Packaging, the plastic packaging manufacturer serving the food industry which came to the stock market last autumn, says it has looked at 24 propositions since September with a view to expansion, but for the moment has decided to "keep our powder dry for the right opportunity". In its first report as a listed company Dolphin discloses a turnover for the six months ended November 30 of £6.13 million, and a pretax profit of £1.23 million. In the comparative first half of the previous year, turnover was £4.29 million and pretax profit £679,000. The interim dividend is 1.2p.

Dolphin came to the stock market after a placing of 4.71 million shares at 106p each. Yesterday its shares were traded at 125p, an 8p rise on the day. Mr Rupert Speyer, the chairman, says that because 80 per cent of turnover goes to the food industry, which should be resilient to any downturn in the economy, the board views the outlook with confidence. The planned factory redevelopment is said to be progressing well.

## Kwikform stake offer

GKN Australia, part of Guest Keen and Nettlefolds said it would bid \$27.1 million for the 37.4 per cent it does not already own in GKN Kwikform Industries. It offered \$4.60 cash, a 70 per cent premium over the last of shares in GKN Kwikform.

The Australian Foreign Investment Review Board has approved the bid.

## Howard up to £1m

Howard Holdings, the housebuilder and plant hire group, lifted its profits from £875,000 to £1.04 million in the six months to end-October, despite a drop in turnover from £4.53 million to £3.45 million. Earnings per share are up from 2.3p to 2.7p, and the interim dividend rises to 0.5p on the enlarged share capital. The development division made the bulk of the profits.

## Electrolux ahead

Electrolux, the Swedish electrical and white goods company, said it had increased 1987 profits by 18 per cent through a restructuring and rationalization of its operations following an expensive expansion programme. The company said in its preliminary annual report that the increase in sales during 1987, to Sw Kr67.2 billion (£6.3 billion) from Sw Kr53.09 billion, came mainly from its takeover of Zanussi, the Italian company and the US White Consolidated.

The company said markets for its main operations continued to show good volume trends during the fourth quarter of 1987. "There have been no definite signs of a decline in demand resulting from the developments in the international stock market during the latter part of 1987," it added. Mr Anders Scharp, the managing director, said although he was happy with the result he wanted a 15 per cent return on capital against the current 13 per cent.

## Half-year rise at YRM

YRM, the architectural design company which came to the market last April, made taxable profits in the half-year to end-October of £977,000 against £725,000 the previous first half. Turnover rose to £6.5 million from £4.5 million and the interim dividend was 1p. All divisions contributed to the strong performance and the present level of inquiry is exceptionally strong, the company said.

## Settlement hopes in HK

Mr Robert Fell, the chief executive of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, is hoping to have an interim system for improving settlements in place within six months, he said in London. A longer-term solution to the settlement problem, possibly a depository system, could take two years. Mr Fell is having talks with the London Stock Exchange, which may lead Hong Kong a full-time expert.

## NFC introduces itself to the market

The National Freight Consortium is an unusual animal. Its decision to seek a Stock Exchange listing via an introduction, rather than an offer for sale, and to insist on a two-tier voting structure in the event of a bid, highlights its differences.

The introductory method was chosen so that existing shareholders would not have to sell a chunk of their holding, or be diluted by new and non-employee shareholders. The rights issue of up to £100 million will be offered to shareholders before the flotation and will involve some dilution if not fully taken up.

The preoccupation with maintaining employee control explains the double vote for employee shareholders if there is a takeover attempt for their company. Unbalanced voting structures are usually highly undemocratic and unpopular with the Stock Exchange and investing institutions, but the NFC, 65 per cent owned by employees, does have a more convincing argument than most.

An introduction will allow the market to choose the share price level. At the last listing date in December NFC shares were 117.5p, showing a 13 per cent decline from the previous quarter to reflect the fall in the stock market. A more accurate market price would be at least 160p, based

on comparisons with other quoted companies in the haulage sector.

NFC expects earnings per share to grow by about 20 per cent this year, despite a rising tax charge, up to 21 per cent from 16.5 per cent last year.

Excluding any dilution from a rights issue, NFC could expect to trade on a prospective p/e of about 11½ to 12, which would give a 160p to 170p price range.

NFC's mix of business is steadily improving and operating margins inched ahead last year. Customer gains in the BRS subsidiary included Gateway, and in the distribution division the development of two warehouses for Tesco, which will probably not show up in profits until next year.

The balance sheet at the year-end showed gearing of 73 per cent, which will rise to more than 100 per cent next week when the £100 million (£57 million) Allied Van Lines acquisition is completed.

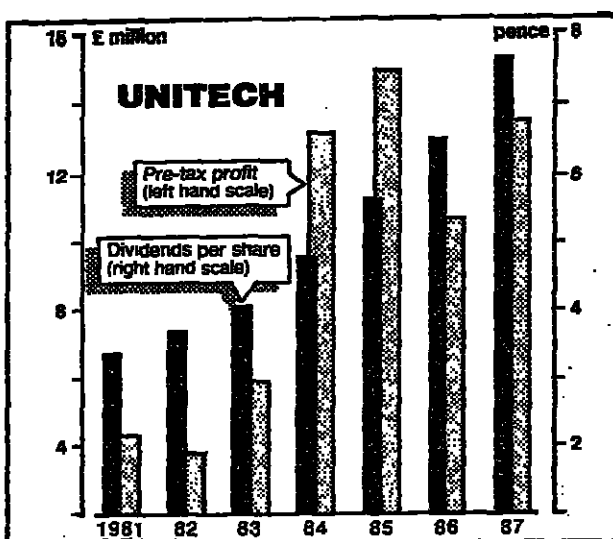
With interest cover at a record 4.6 times last year and cash flow remaining very strong, the board and the banks are comfortable with such borrowings.

NFC is continuing to look for acquisitions in the US, having reached a level of 25 per cent of profit coming from overseas well before the target date of 1989.

## ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey 2,734	Costs 276	Land Sec 702	Rowntree 943
Adia 1,053	CU 318	Laporte 235	Royal Bank 943
Amrad 2,327	Cora Gold 258	L&G 2,585	Royal Ind 1,504
ASDA 1,303	Cookson 429	Lloyds 5,731	Sainsbury 1,223
AB Foods 37	Courtauld 1,240	Lorin 534	Sainsbury 516
Arryl 2,071	Deagay 1,389	Lucas 498	Scott & N 1,430
BAA 3,452	Dea 1,016	Magnet 6,251	Sera 9,253
BET 620	Dixons 4,133	M&S 3,279	Sedgwick 1,395
BTR 2,780	ECC 870	Manwell Cm 741	Shell 541
BAT 1,571	Enterprise 325	MEPC 150	Smith & N 1,745
BAXA 1,732	Ferrand 1,513	Met Box 1,395	STC 1,751
BICC 397	Fisons 2,728	Midland 1,477	Stan Chart 477
Beecham 771	Gen Acc 852	Northwest 1,453	Stoness 1,854
Benson 771	SEC 7,848	Navt 2,573	Sun Alliance 1,48
Bess 634	Glaxo 1,524	Nim Food 1,519	T & N 1,127
Blue Arrow 572	Globe 32	PAO 817	Tarmac 1,104
Blue Circle 17	Grand Met 1,544	Pearson 582	Tate & Lyle 185
BOD 1,051	GUS 'A' 341	Pilkington 3,184	Tesco 2,789
Boots 1,382	GRE 488	Plessey 597	Thorn EMI 493
BPG 1,104	GN 1,200	Prudential 1,142	Tristellar 330
Br Aero 1,803	Guinness 3,821	Racal 1,492	THF 1,690
Br Airways 3,553	Hann 'A' 318	RK Hovis 1,102	Unilever 623
Br Comm 484	Hanson 7,911	Rand 775	United B 1,210
Br Gas 5,242	Hawley 589	Rend 1,038	Unit News 519
Br Petrol 7,281	Hid 1,105	Road 388	Wellcome 708
Br Telecom 3,802	Hid 1,105	Road 388	Whitbread 583
Bund 1,228	ICI 1,270	RMC GP 139	Wills Fab 589
Burmah 721	Jaguar 1,122	RTZ 2,122	Woolworth 1,720
Burns 1,473	Ladbroke 388	Rothm 'B' 90	
Cadbury 904			

## TEMPUS



## Unitech

Since Black Monday anything American has been bad news, and drawing attention to a company's sensitivity to the dollar is not especially clever.

So it was no surprise to see Unitech shares fall 10 per cent to 193p when a reasonable set of half-time figures were accompanied by a warning that even without a further weakening of the dollar, second half results would show no progress on the previous year.

A hull in activity in components marketing has hit Unitech's subsidiary, Rapid Recall, particularly hard. Last year this business contributed £3 million to group pretax

profits of £13.6 million. It marked time in the first half of this year and a shortfall in the second half will lead to lower profits for the full year.

Longer term, however, Unitech is confident that the business will recover the 25 per cent annual growth rate which characterized it in the past.

Another apparently temporary problem area is the telephone manufacturing business, Rathdown. As a leading supplier to British Telecom this division has been badly hit by the failure of BT to recover certain product lines owing to lack of customer demand.

This factor will limit the progress which can be made

from component manufacturing in the second half although the company is again confident that lost ground will be made up in due course.

Elsewhere, sound progress is being made in the power supplies and industrial controls divisions. Profits are expected to move ahead strongly this year from £2.7 million and £1.3 million to £3.2 million and £1.8 million respectively.

For the full year, group pretax profits are unlikely to exceed £14.5 million, giving earnings per share of 20p.

The shares are selling on a 15 per cent discount to the market, but are unlikely to close the gap until the currency outlook improves.

## Dixons Group

The logic behind Dixons' move for Wigfals is blindingly simple. Dixons knows it can make money whenever it opens shops, and with Wigfals, it gets 300,000 sq ft of space, a 10 per cent increase in its British total, all in one go. Its £16 million cash offer is also designed to squeeze out some potentially troublesome competition in the shape of Bennett & Fountain, whose aggressive tactics have proved successful in the south and east of England.

Bennett & Fountain, now the underbidder, believes that it can survive alongside Dixons by offering choice through quality branded products to compete with Dixons' own brands. But after its disastrous

performance last year, Dixons cannot afford to let it try.

The sad fact about Wigfals is that it was never able to compete successfully with the big discounters. So much so, that Mr John Richards, the stores analyst at Wood Mackenzie, reckons that Wigfals' sales per sq ft are currently about £200. If Dixons succeeds in buying Wigfals, and changes the store formats to Dixons or Currys, he forecasts that sales will rapidly rise to nearer £700 per sq ft, high enough to give Dixons a good profit over its financing costs.

The question now facing shareholders is whether to accept the Dixons bid or to wait for Bennett & Fountain to come up with an even better offer. Given the precedent of Barker & Dobson's bid for Dec, Bennett will be undaunted by the need to gear up on its £15 million balance sheet, despite its current borrowings of £6.5 million at the last balance sheet date.

However if the Dixons move is to keep the competition out, then it could be worth its while to pay up to do so. When Wigfals offered itself to Dixons a year ago it was rejected. Now that a potentially dangerous competitor wants it, Dixons interest has become intense.

Such rivalry is all to the benefit of the shareholders, who should sit tight until Bennett & Fountain decides what to do next.

## STOCK MARKET

## BAT poised to lift offer for Farmers after Wall St flurry

By Michael Clark

It looks as though BAT Industries is getting ready to increase its proposed \$4.2 billion (£2.37 billion) offer for Farmers Group, America's seventh biggest property and casualty insurance group.

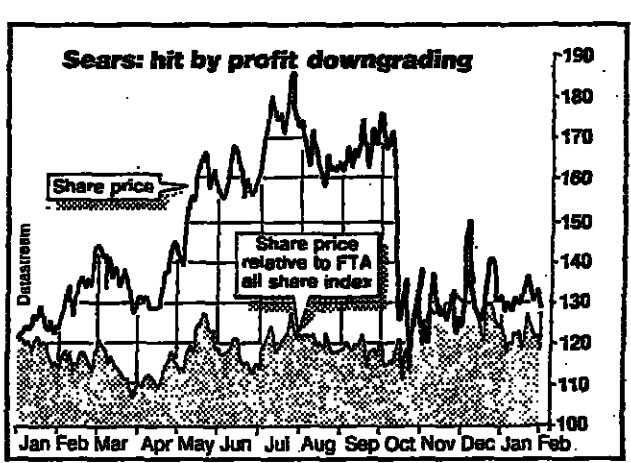
Sensing that a higher bid was on the way, investors on Wall Street chased the Farmers' share price above the \$60 a share for the first time since BAT indicated it wanted to bid. In early trade the price climbed \$2 to \$60.75 amid talk that BAT was prepared to make a revised offer of between \$65 and \$70 a share.

The flurry in the share price coincided with Los Angeles-based Farmers' first meeting with New York investment analysts who came away impressed. The meeting has been described as a "significant event" by sources close to Farmers.

Last week Farmers rejected BAT's proposals as "inadequate." BAT reacted with dismay and urged the Farmers' board to meet for talks aimed at smoothing out any disagreements between the two sides. BAT wants to hold on to the Farmers' management and would clearly like the bid terms to be agreed by both sides. BAT closed unchanged at 439p as almost 2 million shares were traded.

The rest of the equity market, still reeling from the shock of Monday's 10 per cent rise in base rates to 9 per cent, spent another lacklustre day. Share prices made cautious start and tried to go better helped by the appearance of a few cheap buyers in thin conditions. But the rally soon ran out of steam with news of a ¼ percentage point cut in US prime rates, which also prompted a dull start to trading on Wall Street, doing nothing to soothe investors' ruffled nerves.

Turnover remained at a low



ebb with only 353.2 million shares traded. The FT-SE 100 share index was 7.6 up at its best levels of the day but closed a net 2.5 down at 1,774.4 while the narrower FT index of 30 shares lost an early 4.0 lead to finish 3.0 down at 1,420.1.

Government securities made another shaky start in the wake of the move toward dearer money with losses

Heavy buying again pushed Aris Europe, the car rental group fletted off from its US parent a couple of years, another 12p to 303p yesterday - for a two-day lead of 18p. Dealers are clearly hoping for some good news soon. One broker is about to publish a review of the company and several meetings with New York investment analysts have been pencilled in.

stretching to £3 at the longer end. Prices later rallied closing with scattered gains of ½ despite the disappointing foreign reserves figures which showed a rise of only 3.8 million last month.

Sears, the Selfridges stores group to William Hill betting office chain, which recently bought Freemans, the mail order group, was an early feature sliding 4½p to 125p on news that yet another leading broker had trimmed its profits forecast from £238 million to £232 million.

News of the downgrading was the signal for a number of fund managers to start selling

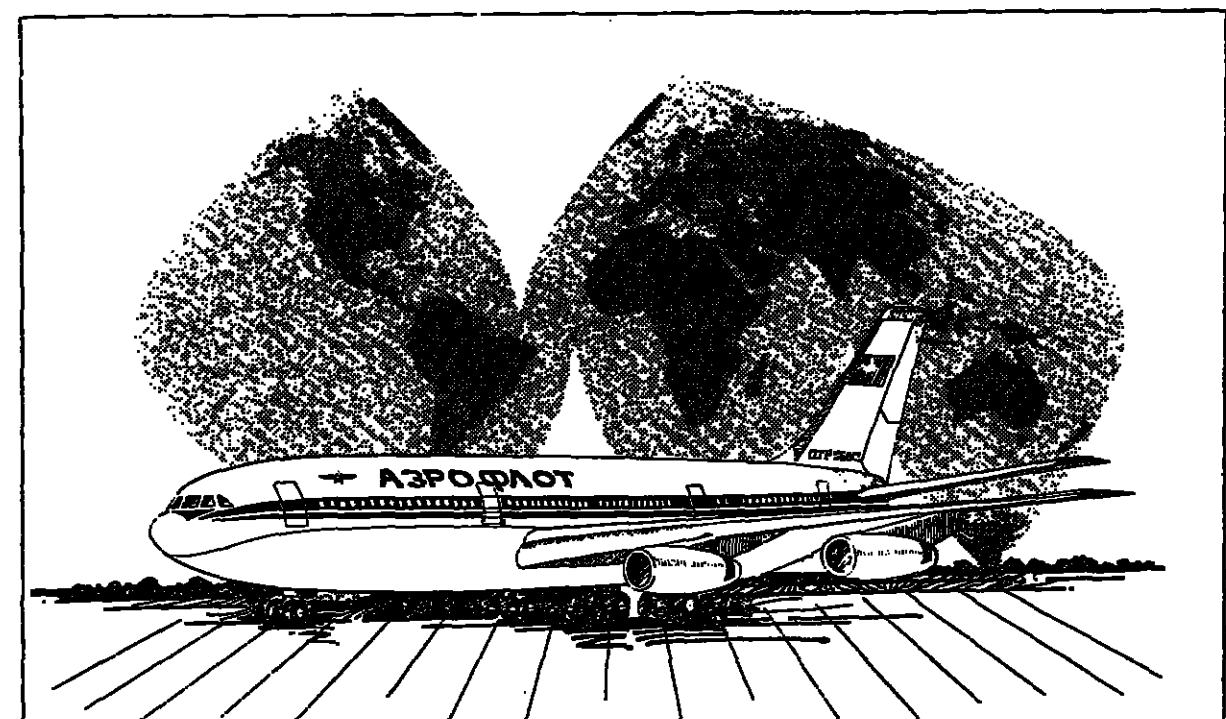
the shares with almost 10 million changing hands. Last week another leading securities house trimmed its profit estimate by £5 million to £235 million.

The Sears share price has lost most of its speculative froth following the sale by Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian financier, of his 8 per cent stake in the wake of the stock market crash. Just

Buyers came in for Lloyds Bank, which is regarded as one of the most vulnerable to increased provisions for bad debts, and chased the price 11p higher to 259p. Small gains were also seen in National Westminster Bank 5p to 602p and Barclays Bank 4p to 489p although Midland Bank, the subject of several "buy" circulars in the past few days, held steady at 418p.

The life assurance companies were a dull market worried by the spread of Aids and what it might cost them. The Government has told actuaries for the life companies to take into account the effect of Aids in the valuation of their liabilities as from the end of last year.

Some analysts claim that Aids has cost the companies £1.4 billion, so far, but that figure is expected to grow to £2.5 billion by 1995. Falls were seen in Abbey Life 9p to 256p, Legal & General 15p to 274p, London & Manchester 7p to 298p, Prudential 5p to 843p, Pearl Group 5p to 443p and Sun Life 5p to £10.13.



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## New drive urged on debt issue

By Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has called for a new effort to solve the problems of heavy indebtedness of the low-income developing countries.

Mr Joseph Wheeler, the chairman of the Development Assistance Committee, says in the annual OECD report, *Development Co-operation*, that the problems of the low-income countries are the biggest immediate challenge and amount to a "crisis." Practical solutions need to be found before the OECD countries can turn their attention back to longer-term development issues.

The problems of the very poor countries have already attracted a number of official proposals, including those from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, who has put forward an agenda containing the writing-off of official bilateral debts and reductions in interest rates.

## £4.2m Cullens cash call

By Cliff Feltham

Cullens, the loss-making chain of convenience stores, is being bailed out of trouble by Mr Philip Kaye, the entrepreneur who created the Garfunkels Restaurants group.

Mr Kaye and the Belhaven brewing group which acquired Garfunkels for £100 million last year are backing a £4.2 million rights issue by Cullens.

The deal will leave Mr Kaye and Belhaven owning a 26 per

cent slice of the Cullens business.

Last night Mr Peter Matthews, the Cullens chairman, said: "We need the sort of help they can provide. There is nothing to stop them bidding for the rest if they wish but as far as we know there are no plans for that at the moment."

Mr Kaye - who built up the Golden Egg chain and then City Hotels before launching Garfunkels - said: "Cullens' administration has been top

heavy and they have tried to move ahead too fast. The shops will provide an outlet in the South for Belhaven beers."

Mr Kaye and Belhaven are subscribing for £3 million of shares at 55p each. The rest of the cash is being raised from existing shareholders.

Cullens says it is expecting to chalk up further losses in the second half of the year following losses of £2.6 million after exceptional costs of £1 million

## Interest Rate Change

Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 2nd February 1988, its Base Rate was increased from 8½% to 9% p.a.

**Allied Irish Bank**

Head Office - Britain: 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL. Tel: 01-588 0691 and branches throughout the country.



# Freight group poised for a £500m November flotation

By Alison Eadie

The National Freight Consortium, the employee-owned haulage business privatized six years ago, could be coming to the stock market this November valued at about £500 million.

Shareholders convening at the annual meeting on February 21 will be asked to vote in favour of a board recommendation to seek a listing by way of an introduction at the most appropriate time within the next two years. November would be the earliest possible date for a flotation. Shareholders will also be asked to authorize a rights issue of up to £100 million.

Sir Peter Thompson, the chairman, said he expected shareholders would approve a stock market listing. The aim was to increase marketability of the shares at a more realistic price than the present quarterly independent valuation.

At the December valuation, the share price declined for the first time, to 117.5p from 135p in September, reflecting the stock market crash. NFC is 65 per cent owned by employees, 20 per cent by institutions and 15 per cent by former employees. Shareholders wanting to buy or sell shares can do so on only four dealing days in the year.

NFC also unveiled a 28 per cent increase in pretax profit to £47.4 million in the year to October 3. Turnover rose 22 per cent to £911.4 million and employee profit-sharing rose to £3.2 million from £2.5 million.

The present year has started well and trading is above budget, Sir Peter said he



Aiming for market: Sir Peter Thompson yesterday (Photograph by Kevin Harvey)

expected 1988 earnings per share to increase by nearly 20 per cent. The consortium will next week complete its £100 million (£57 million) acquisition of Allied Van-Lines, the largest households removal group in the US.

Last year the trading profits of NFC International, the overseas part of the consortium, rose to £11.8 million from £4 million. Progress would have been greater but for the weak dollar.

Sir Peter was keen to stress the unusual if not unique nature of NFC because of its employee ownership. At the end of December the number of shareholders had risen to 35,673 from 10,184 in February, 1982 when the company was privatized.

Sir Peter said those with their livelihood and money in the business should have a greater say in it than those simply with their money invested. He gave this as the

reason for the double voting rights for employee shareholders if there were a takeover bid for NFC.

The board believes flotation of NFC is both "desirable and inevitable" because of the danger of a creeping takeover if shares were to filter out to outsiders if no internal buyer could be found, and because without recourse to the market access to new equity capital would be barred.

Temps, page 24

## Broken Hill rallies support

By Colin Campbell

Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), which aims to water down apparently potentially disruptive influences of two "unfriendly" shareholders — Mr Robert Holmes & Court's Bell Resources and to a lesser degree Mr John Elliott's Elders — through an Aus\$2.7 billion share buy-back plan and related deals, is preparing its defences against a possible shareholders' revolt at its February 25 meeting.

Senior BHP executives are in the world's financial centres trying to convince foreign investors that the restructuring will lead to a more efficient group and remove uncertainties caused by Bell's near-30 per cent holding.

Foreign ownership of BHP is estimated at between 9 and 10 per cent, of which British holders represent roughly 2 per cent. At the meeting, Bell and Elders will not be allowed to vote, leaving it up to the genuine minority to decide.

Meanwhile, the West Australia State Government Insurance Commission, holder of 2.5 per cent in BHP, bought from Bell Resources last November, has retained a Queen's Counsel to advise on the legality of the BHP proposal and has written to the corporate watchdog, the National Companies and Securities Commission.

BHP's formal documents outlining full details of its plans, including the buy-back and cancellation of 300 million BHP shares, are expected today.

The cost of buying a Bell company holding 300 million BHP shares at Aus\$7 each would be Aus\$2.1 billion, and have to be partly funded by sales of at least Aus\$1 billion in non-strategic assets. There is an additional cost of Aus\$575 million in satisfying various arrangements with Elders. The net effect will be to cut Bell's holding in BHP from about 30 per cent to 10 per cent. Bell will be bound not to increase its holding beyond 10 per cent — unless it intends making a full bid.

Mr Holmes & Court has admitted that the sale of BHP shares under the proposals will mean a gross loss of about Aus\$290 million.

As part of the package, BHP proposes a re-arrangement and various share transactions with Elders.

If the resolution is approved, Mr Holmes & Court and Mr Elliott will resign from BHP's board. BHP board members will in turn resign from Elders.

## COMMENT David Brewerton

### A ratings snag on Ratners' US drive

A stock market rating even lower than that of Harris Queensway would cramp the style of many an expansion-minded retailer, but Gerald Ratner, the chairman of Ratners Group, is not going to let it interfere with his drive to make Ratners as big in the United States as it is in the British market.

The US jewellery business is dominated by small "mom & pop" stores with few large chains, and Mr Ratner is determined that if he moves fast enough he can achieve a dominant position in the market, just as he has in Britain. Ratners' next two acquisitions in the US are already lined up, and the first of them will be announced within a couple of months. The group is poised to make an offer for a substantial, 100-strong, chain of retail jewellers based in Chicago, to add to the Sterling and Westhall purchases it made last year. A further acquisition is likely in September.

There is, however, a snag. Last year, when Mr Ratner's ambitions moved so fast he had two rights issues open simultaneously, investors lost their nerve. The share price buckled, and the seal on decline was set by Black Monday, after which the price fell precipitously. At 240p, it is now lower, just, than it was a year ago.

It is hard to argue with the view of Mr John Richards, the stores analyst at Wood Mackenzie, the broker, that the

current rating is "silly," but that does not mean it will become sensible overnight. A quick run through the numbers and forecasts suggests that for the year just ended, earnings per share will be up 25 per cent, and that in the year which is only now into its second day there will be a further earnings per share growth of 15 per cent, despite the surge in issued share capital. The shares are selling at little more than 10 times' prospective current year earnings.

That rating is no basis on which to issue further shares, and Mr Ratner is well aware that one more share issue would scupper the price for a generation. He is, therefore, planning to finance the next round of US acquisitions with funds raised in more subtle ways, in particular the sale and leaseback of up to £70 millions of high street freeholds which came with the H Samuel take-over.

In retailing, the economies of scale which can be generated by bolting on additional shops to a central buying and distribution activity are considerable, which is already clear from the rapid improvements in margins, in the face of lower retail prices, that has taken place in the British business. The same can be true of the American operation, and Mr Ratner has plans to increase the number of US shops to 1,000 as quickly as the finances allow. At \$1,000,000 of turnover per shop, the US could become the jewel in the crown.

## US adds insult to injury

For the American banks to cut prime rates on the day after base rates were raised in Britain added insult to injury. The Chancellor, who spent the early part of January calling for an increase in US interest rates, has latterly been busy wiping egg off his face.

Several important turning points were reached during January. The dollar reached new lows and then started to recover. The first hard evidence of a slowdown in the US economy began to emerge and the beginnings of a turnaround in the trade deficit were detected. The upward pressure on sterling, a feature of most of last year, finally gave out.

The cut in prime rates from 8.75 to 8.5 per cent by the leading US banks was, of course, a response to the earlier decline in money market rates. But, by giving an air of permanence to the easier tone for US rates, the prime cuts were of symbolic importance.

The US leading indicators for December, released in Washington yesterday, showed a 0.2 per cent fall, the third in a row. Three falls in a row signal an impending recession in the US, and together with a drop in home starts and the weakness in last week's fourth-quarter GNP figures, the evidence of a sharp economic slowdown on the other

side of the Atlantic is building up rapidly.

Should this weakness be reflected in a continuing improvement in the trade numbers — and the drums are already beginning to roll for the December figures, due on February 12 — then it will be possible to say with some confidence that the dollar has turned the corner.

So, while there is no reason to suppose that additional moves in base rates in Britain are on the cards in the very near future, yesterday's cut in US prime rates could be the first of many in the coming weeks.

Lower US interest rates are very much a part of the US economic slowdown, and are not necessarily better than higher rates in Britain arising out of too strong a level of economic activity. That said, there is clearly a risk that the markets will begin to regard Britain as the only major economy in which inflation and balance of payments problems are getting worse.

The \$38 million rise in Britain's reserves last month was below market expectations. But the message behind it will have come as no surprise. As some of the euphoria of last year has faded, so sterling has become a far less fashionable currency.

## New gold finance firm to shun SA

By Colin Campbell

A new mining finance company to be listed on the Stock Exchange from Monday, Waverley Mining Finance, has been established with the object of investing in gold-related investment opportunities worldwide — but with the specific exclusion of anything to do with South Africa.

Waverley, with an initial capital base of £10 million, is said to be the first of its kind because it is a gold-based investment company rather than a trust through which it will enjoy the advantages of investment trust status for capital gains tax purposes.

It said 12.5 million shares at 80p had been placed among a wide range of established institutions by Smith New

Court, the broker. Each unit of five shares automatically qualifies the holder for a subscription for one additional ordinary share at 80p until 1993.

Mr Willie McLucas, the managing director of Waverley Asset Management of Edinburgh, which will act as investment adviser to the new company, said the asset mix would be roughly 35 per cent Australia, 35 per cent North America, and 10 per cent Europe, with a 10 per cent target to invest in unquoted opportunities. The balance would be in cash.

The company aims for capital appreciation and will pay only modest dividends, starting in February, 1989.

## Official objection to Benedetti bid

By Our City Staff

The bid by Signor Carlo de Benedetti, the Italian corporate raider, to gain control of Société Générale, Belgium's largest company, is being opposed by the Belgian government.

M Mark Eyskens, the country's finance minister, yesterday made it unambiguously clear that the government is against the takeover and wants Société Générale to win court approval today for its defensive share issue aimed at diluting Signor de Benedetti's 18.6 per cent stake.

Signor de Benedetti, who obtained writs blocking the issue, is seeking to add a further 15 per cent to his present stake.

But if the court rules against

the defensive share issue, other means of stopping the Italian bid are likely to be found. Mr Eyskens told Channel 4's *Business Daily* programme that Belgium is now considering legislation to curb corporate raiders.

Failing that, a group of Belgian business interests, led by M Andre Leysens, the Gevaert chairman, has said it can place sufficient Société Générale shares in "friendly hands" to thwart Signor de Benedetti.

He said the government advocates that the Belgian company associates with other European groups, in preparation for the barrier-free EEC market targeted for 1992, "but preferably on a negotiated basis and not by violent bids."

## Crash fails to halt rise in City rents

By Colin Nairnbroogh

The stock market crash has so far failed to dent office rents in the City, which rose 42.7 per cent over the past year and were still heading upwards in the last quarter, according to the latest survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

But Mr Raymond Baker, the chairman of the RICS panel of valuers for the Square Mile, makes clear that no final judgements can be made yet.

"Activity in the rental market is still brisk, but it may be too early to assess the effect of

the crash in this sector of the market," he said. The institution's All-Buildings Office Rents Index for the City, shows rental growth has been maintained over the last quarter, despite the turbulence in the financial markets since October.

"I suspect we will need to see the following two quarters' returns before a clearer picture emerges," Mr Baker added.

The index is calculated from the rental value per square foot figures which are independently assessed on a range of properties by six

surveyors. The values are processed by the City University.

Commercial surveys appear to be broadly in line with the RICS findings. Mr Angus Macintosh, the head of research at Healey & Baker, the international chartered surveyor, says the growth rate of City rents has slowed somewhat, as had been anticipated before Black Monday.

His company's figures show 35.2 per cent growth in the year to December, after 50 per cent in the 12 months to June.

He added that faster growth

is being seen in office rentals in the West End, possibly caused by a migration from the high prices in the City.

Stanhope Properties has let 1 London Wall, in the City of London, to the Stock Exchange on a short lease outside the 1954 Landlord and Tenant Act. The Stock Exchange is paying a rental of £38 per sq ft. Stanhope Properties plans to redevelop the building in conjunction with the City Corporation, the Worshipful Company of Plasterers and the Museum of London. It will provide a new 250,000 sq ft office building.

## Midland's young ones

Talk about catching them young! Sir Michael Palliser, former head of the diplomatic service and now deputy chairman of Midland Bank, will be absent from the City next Monday, choosing to spend the day at a Kent school instead, opening — believe it or not — the bank's latest branch. The bank at Clare Park School, East Malling, near Maidstone, will be open for only two hours a week — one hour on Mondays and the other on Fridays. According to Midland it is an exercise in winning the hearts and minds of future clients. It will certainly be a bank with a difference. There will be a polished oak counter, proper security and a safe but it will be staffed by the children themselves and its manager will be the school's careers officer, David Howells. Headmaster Tony Harris describes the exercise as a "parable of talents" with some pupils already notching up three-figure bank balances while learning how to manage their money. The facilities are open to staff, as well as pupils aged 11 to 17 years, but there is strictly no credit. The school is so enthusiastic about the project, it has even redesigned its coat of arms to incorporate the Midland griffin.

© Cadbury Schweppes may have put its Groceries, Thunders and Jaws brand names up for sale, but it is good to learn that it is keeping its Nerds and Rums. They are both apparently top-selling sweets in America.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Golden Mile tea dance

The annual shareholders meeting of National Freight Consortium has always been somewhat different, but this year more than most. It will be held over an entire weekend in — where else? — Blackpool, at the end of this month, and more than 3,600 employee shareholders have already reserved their seats. In addition a record 900 pensioners — all

ex-employees — are queuing to make their bookings. The star attraction is said to be a tea dance, brainchild of chairman Sir Peter Thompson. Sir Peter, ex-Bradford Grammar School boy, has also been preoccupied with another child of late. At the ripe old age of 59 he has just become a father again, with a baby daughter, Emma.

### Déjà vu

Karl Otto Pöhl, West Germany's central bank supremo, has, in line with the Governor of the Bank of England, had his term of office renewed. The fact that Herr Pöhl's term runs for eight years, as opposed to Robin Leigh-Pemberton's five, appears to give him more scope for taking a longer-term view.

As guest speaker at the Overseas Bankers' Club annual moot at the London Guildhall on Monday, he gave a fine display of this. Since he last addressed the august gathering about eight years ago, little had changed, he said. The music was the same, the food as good, and the faces familiar. "Even the dollar hasn't changed very much," Herr Pöhl observed with amusement. Then it was about DM1.74. Today it is touching DM1.70.

What is the opposite of a children's video? An adult video? Hardly. This problem faced the PR man advising Williams Collins on its acquisition of MSD, the *Pudding Book* and *Postman Pat* book and cassette publisher. "Videos for a wider age group" was his way out of the dilemma. Not bad for a man who cut his PR teeth on a company called Herbert Small Tool and Boring.

## Amicable but deadly

Graeme Knox, chief investment manager of Scottish Amicable Investment, no doubt had nothing but the best intentions when he issued a press release on Monday saying BP was bidding £2.5 billion for Britoil, to buy North Sea assets valued at only £900 million the day before BP launched its December dawn raid. As a holder of 26 million BP shares, through Scottish Amicable, he had every right to express his concerns. But it is also interesting to note that he, on behalf of the fund, sold more than 200,000 Britoil shares to BP at 300p a piece on the morning of December 8. That was the day BP launched its dawn raid. The shares now stand at 478p — which means Scottish Amicable missed out on a profit conservatively estimated at about £400,000. That aside, Britoil staff are said to be enraged that Knox has apparently gone out of his way to knock publicly their asset value, which had been the key part of their defence. Their assumption that he would support the company in its hour of need is perhaps understandable. Scottish Amicable does, after all, manage half of Britoil's staff pension fund.

© Anxious not to offend the sensibilities of its impending hordes of foreign visitors for the Olympic Games, the Seoul government is apparently trying to repress certain local customs. One of its first moves has, I hear, been to ban all dog-meat restaurants from the city centre.

Carol Leonard

## Girobank

Girobank plc announces that with effect from close of business Tuesday February 2, 1988

### Base Rate

Its base rate was increased from 8.5% to 9% per annum

Other facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Base Rate will be varied accordingly

Girobank plc 10 Milk Street LONDON EC2V 8JH

## Standard Chartered

### Base Rate

On and after 2nd February 1988 Standard Chartered Bank's Base Rate for lending is being increased from 8.50% to 9.00%

Standard Chartered Bank  
Head Office 38 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4DE  
Tel. 01-280 7500 Telex 885951



### Base Rate

BCC announces that from 2nd February 1988 its base rate is changed from 8½% to 9% p.a.

BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL  
100 LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON EC3A 3AD



Coutts & Co. announce that their Base Rate is increased from 8.50% to 9.00% per annum with effect from the 2nd February, 1988 until further notice.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Coutts Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

The Deposit Rates on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal are as follows:—

4.25% per annum Gross\*  
3.00% per annum Net (the Gross Equivalent of which is 4.11% per annum to a basic rate tax payer).

Rates are subject to variation and interest is paid half-yearly in June and December.

\*Not normally available to individuals who are U.K. residents.  
440 Strand, London, WC2R 0QS







# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 25. Dealings end February 5. Contango day February 8. Settlement day February 15.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

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1	Bovis Lend Lease	Electrical	
2	British Telecom	Telecom	
3	British Airways	Airline	
4	British Petroleum	Petroleum	
5	British Steel	Steel	
6	British Sugar	Sugar	
7	British Water	Water	
8	British Airways	Airline	
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Please take into account any minus signs

WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

### BRITISH FUNDS

1987 High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1987 High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987 High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1987 High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### UNDATED

1987 High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### INDEX-LINKED

1987 High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1987 High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### BREWERIES

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### BUILDING, ROADS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### CINEMAS, TV

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### DRAPERY, STORES

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### ELECTRICALS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### FINANCE, LAND

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### FOODS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### HOTELS, CATERERS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### INDUSTRIALS A-D

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### L-R

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### S-Z

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### INSURANCE

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### LEISURE

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### MINING

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### OILS, GAS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### OVERSEAS TRADERS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### PROPERTY

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### SHIPPING

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### SHOES, LEATHER

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000  
Claims required for 44 points  
ACCUMULATOR £32,000  
Claims over 44 points  
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

### OVERSEAS TRADERS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### PROPERTY

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### SHIPPING

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### SHOES, LEATHER

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### TEXTILES

1987 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Div	Div
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100



AR 2

Est Offer Chng Ytd				Est Offer Chng Ytd				Est Offer Chng Ytd				Est Offer Chng Ytd				Est Offer Chng Ytd			
<b>ARBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS</b>																			
10, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000, 1005, 1010, 1015, 1020, 1025, 1030, 1035, 1040, 1045, 1050, 1055, 1060, 1065, 1070, 1075, 1080, 1085, 1090, 1095, 1100, 1105, 1110, 1115, 1120, 1125, 1130, 1135, 1140, 1145, 1150, 1155, 1160, 1165, 1170, 1175, 1180, 1185, 1190, 1195, 1200, 1205, 1210, 1215, 1220, 1225, 1230, 1235, 1240, 1245, 1250, 1255, 1260, 1265, 1270, 1275, 1280, 1285, 1290, 1295, 1300, 1305, 1310, 1315, 1320, 1325, 1330, 1335, 1340, 1345, 1350, 1355, 1360, 1365, 1370, 1375, 1380, 1385, 1390, 1395, 1400, 1405, 1410, 1415, 1420, 1425, 1430, 1435, 1440, 1445, 1450, 1455, 1460, 1465, 1470, 1475, 1480, 1485, 1490, 1495, 1500, 1505, 1510, 1515, 1520, 1525, 1530, 1535, 1540, 1545, 1550, 1555, 1560, 1565, 1570, 1575, 1580, 1585, 1590, 1595, 1600, 1605, 1610, 1615, 1620, 1625, 1630, 1635, 1640, 1645, 1650, 1655, 1660, 1665, 1670, 1675, 1680, 1685, 1690, 1695, 1700, 1705, 1710, 1715, 1720, 1725, 1730, 1735, 1740, 1745, 1750, 1755, 1760, 1765, 1770, 1775, 1780, 1785, 1790, 1795, 1800, 1805, 1810, 1815, 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, 2050, 2055, 2060, 2065, 2070, 2075, 2080, 2085, 2090, 2095, 2100, 2105, 2110, 2115, 2120, 2125, 2130, 2135, 2140, 2145, 2150, 2155, 2160, 2165, 2170, 2175, 2180, 2185, 2190, 2195, 2200, 2205, 2210, 2215, 2220, 2225, 2230, 2235, 2240, 2245, 2250, 2255, 2260, 2265, 2270, 2275, 2280, 2285, 2290, 2295, 2300, 2305, 2310, 2315, 2320, 2325, 2330, 2335, 2340, 2345, 2350, 2355, 2360, 2365, 2370, 2375, 2380, 2385, 2390, 2395, 2400, 2405, 2410, 2415, 2420, 2425, 2430, 2435, 2440, 2445, 2450, 2455, 2460, 2465, 2470, 2475, 2480, 2485, 2490, 2495, 2500, 2505, 2510, 2515, 2520, 2525, 2530, 2535, 2540, 2545, 2550, 2555, 2560, 2565, 2570, 2575, 2580, 2585, 2590, 2595, 2600, 2605, 2610, 2615, 2620, 2625, 2630, 2635, 2640, 2645, 2650, 2655, 2660, 2665, 2670, 2675, 2680, 2685, 2690, 2695, 2700, 2705, 2710, 2715, 2720, 2725, 2730, 2735, 2740, 2745, 2750, 2755, 2760, 2765, 2770, 2775, 2780, 2785, 2790, 2795, 2800, 2805, 2810, 2815, 2820, 2825, 2830, 2835, 2840, 2845, 2850, 2855, 2860, 2865, 2870, 2875, 2880, 2885, 2890, 2895, 2900, 2905, 2910, 2915, 2920, 2925, 2930, 2935, 2940, 2945, 2950, 2955, 2960, 2965, 2970, 2975, 2980, 2985, 2990, 2995, 3000, 3005, 3010, 3015, 3020, 3025, 3030, 3035, 3040, 3045, 3050, 3055, 3060, 3065, 3070, 3075, 3080, 3085, 3090, 3095, 3100, 3105, 3110, 3115, 3120, 3125, 3130, 3135, 3140, 3145, 3150, 3155, 3160, 3165, 3170, 3175, 3180, 3185, 3190, 3195, 3200, 3205, 3210,																			

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## UNLISTED SECURITIES

1987/88					1987/88					1987/88					1987/88												
High	Low	Company	Bid	Price	Change	YTD	%	P/E	High	Low	Company	Bid	Price	Change	YTD	%	P/E	High	Low	Company	Bid	Price	Change	YTD	%	P/E	
35	10	A & C	14	14	0	23	1	281	38	23	Harvard Leaden	54	54	0	01	02	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
36	11	A & C	15	15	0	23	1	281	39	24	Harvard Leaden	55	55	0	01	02	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
37	12	A & C	16	16	0	23	1	281	40	25	Harvard Leaden	56	56	0	01	02	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136
38	13	A & C	17	17	0	23	1	281	41	26	Harvard Leaden	57	57	0	01	02	137	137	137	137	137	137	137	137	137	137	137
39	14	A & C	18	18	0	23	1	281	42	27	Harvard Leaden	58	58	0	01	02	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138
40	15	A & C	19	19	0	23	1	281	43	28	Harvard Leaden	59	59	0	01	02	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139
41	16	A & C	20	20	0	23	1	281	44	29	Harvard Leaden	60	60	0	01	02	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
42	17	A & C	21	21	0	23	1	281	45	30	Harvard Leaden	61	61	0	01	02	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141	141
43	18	A & C	22	22	0	23	1	281	46	31	Harvard Leaden	62	62	0	01	02	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142
44	19	A & C	23	23	0	23	1	281	47	32	Harvard Leaden	63	63	0	01	02	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
45	20	A & C	24	24	0	23	1	281	48	33	Harvard Leaden	64	64	0	01	02	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144
46	21	A & C	25	25	0	23	1	281	49	34	Harvard Leaden	65	65	0	01	02	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145
47	22	A & C	26	26	0	23	1	281	50	35	Harvard Leaden	66	66	0	01	02	146	146	146	146	146	146	146	146	146	146	146
48	23	A & C	27	27	0	23	1	281	51	36	Harvard Leaden	67	67	0	01	02	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147	147
49	24	A & C	28	28	0	23	1	281	52	37	Harvard Leaden	68	68	0	01	02	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148
50	25	A & C	29	29	0	23	1	281	53	38	Harvard Leaden	69	69	0	01	02	149	1									

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Market rates for February 2				
Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
New York	2.2581-1.7690	1.7690-1.7690	0.30-0.27p	0.94-0.98p
Montreal	2.2581-1.7690	1.7690-1.7690	0.21p-0.21p	0.94-0.98p
Amsterdam	3.3357-3.3461	3.3461-3.3461	15p-1p	49p-34p
Brussels	61.96-62.63	62.63-62.63	21p-4p	53p-61p
Frankfurt	24.94-24.94	24.94-24.94	9p-9p	25p-25p
Dublin	1.1148-1.1148	1.1178-1.1178	8p-5p	34p-14p
Frankfurt	2.2581-1.7690	2.2581-1.7690	0.21p-0.21p	0.94-0.98p
London	24.94-24.94	24.94-24.94	9p-9p	25p-25p
Madrid	20.91-20.91	20.91-20.91	44p-22p	140p-160p
Paris	110.62-110.62	110.62-110.62	10p-10p	130p-130p
Oslo	11.2574-11.3054	11.2574-11.3054	33p-14p	130p-140p
Paris	10.0194-10.0519	10.0727-10.0467	3p-14p	3p-14p
Stockholm	10.0623-11.4376	10.0727-10.4176	11p-4p	31p-31p
Tokyo	226.57-226.56	226.55-226.56	11p-4p	31p-25p
Vienna	20.94-20.91	20.97-20.91	11p-4p	13p-10p
Zurich	2.2581-1.7690	2.2581-1.7690	0.21p-0.21p	0.94-0.98p

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina austral*	9.6188-9.7125
Australia dollar	2.4775-0.4775
Bahrain dirham	0.0050-0.0046
Brazil cruzado	148.96-149.38
Canada dollar	0.7250-0.7250
Denmark krone	13.2500-13.2500
Finland markka	2.2581-2.2497
Greece drachma	72.600-72.600
India rupee	13.1250-13.1250
Italy lira	22.91-23.11
Japan yen	0.4404-0.4397
Malaysia dollar	0.7250-0.7250
Mexico peso	390.00-400.00
Netherlands guilder	2.2581-2.2581
South Africa rand	6.5750-6.6150
Singapore dollar	3.2514-3.2553
Hong Kong dollar	7.2520-7.1725
S. Africa rand (com)	3.1915-3.2516
U.S.A. dollar	6.4400-6.4400

*Lloyds Bank, Rates supplied by	
Premium = per cent. Discount =	

### THIRD MARKET

[illegible]

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 91
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## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTU

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
<b>Three Month Sterling</b>						<b>US Treasury Bond</b>					
Jan 85	90.50	90.50	90.50	90.50	51263	Jan 85	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	10846
Feb 85	90.50	90.50	90.50	90.50	1404	Feb 85	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	7800
Mar 85	90.50	90.50	90.50	90.50	1404	Mar 85	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	95-15
Apr 85	90.50	90.50	90.50	90.50	222	Apr 85	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	30702
May 85	90.50	90.50	90.50	90.50	6	May 85	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	94-1/4	250
Jun 85	90.50	90.50	90.50	90.50	6						
<b>Three Month Eurodollar</b>						<b>FT-SE 100</b>					
Jan 85	92.93	92.93	92.93	92.93	5798	Jan 85	77.50	77.50	77.50	77.50	10885
Feb 85	92.93	92.93	92.93	92.93	5798	Feb 85	77.50	77.50	77.50	77.50	17670
Mar 85	92.93	92.93	92.93	92.93	5798	Mar 85	77.50	77.50	77.50	77.50	17670
Apr 85	92.93	92.93	92.93	92.93	5798	Apr 85	77.50	77.50	77.50	77.50	17670
May 85	92.93	92.93	92.93	92.93	5798	May 85	77.50	77.50	77.50	77.50	17670
Jun 85	92.93	92.93	92.93	92.93	5798	Jun 85	77.50	77.50	77.50	77.50	17670
<b>Three Month Eurodollar</b>						<b>Swiss Govt Bond</b>					
Jan 85	91.95	91.95	91.95	91.95	6	Jan 85	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00
Feb 85	91.95	91.95	91.95	91.95	6	Feb 85	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00
Mar 85	91.95	91.95	91.95	91.95	6	Mar 85	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00
Apr 85	91.95	91.95	91.95	91.95	6	Apr 85	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00
May 85	91.95	91.95	91.95	91.95	6	May 85	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00
Jun 85	91.95	91.95	91.95	91.95	6	Jun 85	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00

## COMMODIT

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صبرنا من الازل



# CREATIVE, MEDIA & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

**Nimbus Records**

**Sales & Marketing Manager**  
Classical Recordings

Herefordshire c.£25,000 plus car

As well as being the largest UK manufacturer of compact discs, Nimbus Records has a growing international reputation for recordings on its own label of superb classical works by the very best artists.

The Sales and Marketing Manager's task is to develop the label, by providing all the necessary marketing skills, and by dealing with agents and distributors in a sales role.

We are looking for a classical music enthusiast, who has a well developed knowledge of the industry, and a strong sales and marketing background; we need a persistent, creative enthusiast, who will put the label where it should be - on the shelves of every record shop in Europe.

Terms and conditions are excellent, the working environment very enjoyable, and the location is superb.

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## RESOURCES OFFICER

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOYS' CLUBS**  
369 KENNINGTON LANE  
LONDON SE11 5QY.

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MARKETING



## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

Who needs the  
broadcasters?

## OPINION

Nick Radio

Next Friday, the largest ever gathering of corporate video producers and their clients will sit down at their annual awards banquet in Mayfair to celebrate the year's best in "business video". The event is a sort of boardroom Oscars ceremony, organized by the International Visual Communications Association (IVCA).

With the explosion in ownership of video recorders, in the office as well as at home, few people have avoided coming into contact with some form of corporate video. Its uses are many and varied — sales, PR, training, staff information.

There is no question that the business use of video has improved considerably over the past year or two.

The amount of production going on might suggest that the business world is becoming more directly involved in the programmes it commissions. But is it?

Advertising agencies and public relations consultancies are producing more and more videos as middlemen on behalf of their clients. There is a definite trend to the slick, extended TV commercial designed to catch the imagination at the sales and marketing end of corporate video — often at a price considerably higher than industry is used to paying for its longer standing problem is what corporate video takes from network television.

But it still has one big problem to resolve before it can really lay claim to being a mature industry. A high percentage of videos are still far too dependent on the use of formats and personalities borrowed from broadcast television. Sometimes, it's a version of a familiar current affairs series — the *Money Programme*, even *Panorama*. More often, it's the use of presenters and reporters chosen because of their familiar-

ity with an audience raised on television. Large corporations often use a well known broadcasting personality to front their internal video magazines. In many parts of the world, for instance, the BBC's Brian Redhead is almost known as "Mr BP" because he is so familiar from the oil company's quarterly video, *Pipeline*.

Broadcasters are in business as professionals and are perfectly free to sell their services where they wish, so good luck to them. On television, reporters and presenters work to strict rules of objectivity and fair play. The audience expects it and part of that kind of TV personality's fame is the trust built up with the audience. That is what corporate video producers are buying, and it is not necessarily overt. Of course, people know when they're watching a sales or a staff video, but there is an inescapable element of endorsement by that personality of whatever the message happens to be.

But surely, if the message is good enough, that kind of endorsement becomes unnecessary? Industry should stop hiding its own people. Who better to sell a new product than the design engineers? Who better to inspire the workforce than a dynamic managing director?

I used to be considered dangerous to allow a company chairman to talk straight to camera if he had no experience of appearing on television. Avoiding this often called for much imagination, diplomacy and persuasiveness on the part of a producer.

But now that we live in an age of video, it is as important for senior executives to be able to express themselves as well on video as they do on paper or around the boardroom table. Good management is not about hiding your key executives behind a plausible front man you have hired from network television.

Nick Radio is corporate video editor of Broadcast.

When *The Guardian* announced its intention of redesigning the newspaper from February 12, the response from one reader was instant. "May I be the first to say," he wrote, "that I do not like it."

Readers are notoriously averse to changes in layout which, according to Fleet Street wisdom, can cut circulation by the thousand. Both *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times* have preferred to introduce substantial changes in recent years by a gradual process of stealth, and this week the *Daily Express* changed its masthead as part of its evolving design.

*The Guardian's* new design, which is being kept carefully out of public view, will, according to the newspaper's marketing manager, John Gordon, be as revolutionary as was its last major change of style in 1969.

*The Guardian's* relatively young readers are considered to be more open to change than, say, the readership of the *Telegraph*, and recently they have found a liberal alternative in *The Independent*. The advantage of

'Cosmetic changes  
are fine if sales  
are rising — not  
if they're falling'

the redesign is that it will draw attention to the newspaper and provide the opportunity for a major advertising promotion.

In 1969, the strategy worked. Readership went up by 20,000 in three months, and continued to rise. But this time the circumstances are different. In the late sixties, *The Guardian* was on a rising curve; now it is losing readers. It is open to question whether a change in layout, but not content will be sufficient to dispel the faded ethos of the seventies still clinging stubbornly to its pages.

"Cosmetic changes without changes in the content are like if the sales are going up," says Charles Wintour, former editor of the *Evening Standard*, "but they will not work when sales are falling."

Examination of relaunches and redesigns of national newspapers over the last 25 years appears to support this. For example, the removal of the advertisements from the front page of *The Times* in 1966 caught the public imagination only briefly. The circulation went up by 30,000 during the first month and then fell back.

The *Observer* had no better luck with its full-scale redesign in 1983, or

As *The Guardian* nears relaunch, Kate Finch examines how editorial change can save a faltering newspaper — or cut the circulation



All change: the broadsheet *Mail* (top left) and (top right) the pre-Murdoch *Sun*, the familiar *Express* masthead and (above) last week's version

with the revamp of its colour supplement last September. The new, square binding of the magazine has merely drawn attention to the inadequacy of the contents. The *Observer's* circulation has remained at around 750,000 through most of the last decade.

The three spectacular successes, by contrast, resulted from drastic changes not just in the look, but also in the content. *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday* were all rapidly

transformed into market leaders after being relaunched.

The metamorphosis of *The Sun* took place in 1969, following its purchase by Rupert Murdoch. Originally launched from the ashes of the *Daily Herald*, the result of considerable market research, it was intended to reflect the new technological age. But it failed to attract readers. When it was converted into a tabloid with a racy format new to British

journalism, the circulation climbed from 800,000 to 1,500,000 within weeks.

The *Mail* was in slow decline before going tabloid in 1971. Its circulation had fallen from close to 3 million in 1960 to less than one million by 1970. When it was relaunched it benefited from being the first middle-range newspaper to abandon the broadsheet size, and from a strong and consistent new editorial direction — with, for example, the introduction of the *Femail* page. Two years later the circulation had risen to 1,250,000.

Going tabloid also helped to halt the gradual loss of circulation of the *News of the World* in 1985, after which the newspaper put on half a million readers. But the tabloid format was of less benefit to the *Daily Express*, which switched size in 1977. By then the initiative was firmly with the *Mail*. Continual changes in ownership at the *Express* left the newspaper without a sense of clear direction for its content

A slow decline,  
and then the  
Mail becomes a  
market leader

and the overall drift downwards continued.

The relaunch of the *Mail on Sunday* followed a disastrous original launch in May, 1982, which, despite considerable market research, produced a paper judged too serious by half. Its circulation dragged at around 700,000. Recast in the style of the *Daily Mail*, and with the addition of an imaginative magazine, the *Mail on Sunday* sold 1,250,000 on the day of its new look.

## When the changes were made

May, 1966: *The Times* takes ads off front page.  
February, 1968: *The Guardian* redesigned.  
November, 1968: *The Sun* relaunched.  
May, 1971: *Daily Mail* goes tabloid.  
Jan, 1977: *Daily Express* goes tabloid.  
October, 1982: *Mail on Sunday* relaunched.  
October, 1983: *Observer* redesigned.  
May, 1985: *News of the World* goes tabloid.  
September, 1987: *Observer* colour magazine relaunched.

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End of  
the line

How newspapers  
are joining the  
road revolution

Yesterday some 800 newspaper wholesalers received a letter from Mirror Group Newspapers giving them notice that their contracts to distribute MGN publications would end on May 1.

It was their third blow in as many months. At the start of this week News International began operating a new distribution system via 182 area franchises. This by-passes nearly 900 distributors, from giants like W.H. Smith to tiny family firms. Smith's, which applied for 80 of the new franchises but won only 14, estimates it has lost up to £4.5 million a year in profits.

Last week Associated Newspapers gave notice that it, too, was putting wholesale distribution of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday* out to tender.

The new agreements with wholesalers have over-shadowed another far-reaching reform — the switch from rail to road, which began two years ago when News International moved to Wapping, and distributed its titles by lorry.

Road distribution is not necessarily cheaper but it is often quicker, particularly in bad weather, and more flexible.

Last year the Mirror Group followed NT's lead and switched to road, and has made "substantial" savings. The company wants to return to a mix of road and rail to save a further £1 million a month.

MGN has also been party to discussions between the wholesalers and all the newspaper publishers about setting up a joint distribution system, using trucks and trains to drop off copies at 100 "dummy sites" for wholesalers to collect from.

Whatever the decision, British Rail's days as the main vehicle for distributing newspapers seem numbered. This is a point conceded by BR, which is even offering to run a combined road/rail system.

Nick Higham

## BEG APPOINTMENTS

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For further details contact Chris Cramer, News Editor on 01-743 8000 ext 1234. (Ref. 8787/T)

We are looking for Assistant Producers to work on three of our major weekly current affairs programmes — *Panorama*, *The Money Programme*, and a new politics programme to be launched in the Spring to replace *This Week Next Week*.

You will be expected to contribute both editorially and technically to the devising, preparation and production of programmes. This includes programme research, film and tape direction, and the shaping of ideas into written and visual form in accordance with the Editor's and Producer's brief.

You must be able to show evidence of achievement in journalism, a developed visual sense, and an appreciation of the technical demands of television production.

Assistant Producers are also required to work on our popular daily discussion programme *Kilroy*.

You should have experience of dealing with a wide range of topical, social and political issues, and be able to demonstrate your knowledge and interest in these areas. You'll also need the ability to work under pressure, as part of a small team, to produce effective daily debates to the highest standards.

Applicants should specify for which programmes they are applying. (Ref. 8776/T)

We require Researchers to work on *Panorama* and on a completely new politics programme, to replace *This Week Next Week* in the Spring.

You should preferably have some journalistic experience, although primarily we are looking for people with real insight and interest in politics, who possess the originality to come up with new ideas and treatments for programmes, and the ability to translate ideas into effective television. (Ref. 8777/T)

Completed application forms for Assistant Producer and Researchers posts must be returned by 17th February.

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## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## Bottle of the giants

Another foreign brewer is trying to conquer the British lager market. But, as Carys Bowen-Jones reports, it is one of the toughest advertising tasks

The latest foreign brewer to be seduced by the £9 billion beer market in this country faces one awkward hurdle: advertising.

Like all the world's major brewers, Labatt — the biggest in Canada — is chasing after business for its lager-style products. And it has put the UK high up on its shopping list. The company wants its lager — launched this week in 1,600 Greenall Whitley pubs in the North and Midlands — to be one of the country's top five national brands within five years.

The attractions of this market are undeniable: lager's estimated 45 per cent share of beer sales last year is expected to swell to between 55 and 60 per cent by the mid-1990s. But as the market is already bulging, with 300 brands, Labatt will have to fight hard to get itself noticed in the clutter of lager advertising.

It is an expensive business. Last year, brewers poured nearly £65 million into advertising their lager brands (see table). Hefty as it is, Labatt's launch budget — equivalent to £60 million on a national basis — has to contend with spending of well



Malcolm the Mounty may get his man, but can he sell lager? Labatt's campaign leaves no room for doubt about the product's origins

over £4 million by far more established brands.

The ability of advertising to stimulate heavy demand from the outset is especially critical for a lager brand because of the short shelf life of the draught product. Heavy spending is matched by increasingly demanding creative standards, and only the wittiest, whackiest campaigns seem to have any chance of success.

"The creative standards in this market are very high indeed," says Peter Watkins, account director on Castlemeine XXXX at Saatchi & Saatchi. "The best of it is probably the best of any UK advertising."

And for the overseas brewer, in particular, the right style can be elusive. The British drinker is, it seems, acutely sensitive about the origins of his pint of lager. If the

advertising projects the wrong image of those origins, it has a pretty good chance of stifling the brand at birth.

The image-makers behind Labatt's colonial predecessors — Fosters, Castlemeine XXXX, Budweiser and Miller Lite — have already discovered that branding a lager with its national heritage can be a

MAJOR LAGER BRANDS 1987 Advertising expenditure	
	£ millions
Budweiser	1.6
Carlisle Black Label	8.4
Carlisle	7.4
Castlemeine XXXX	4.0
Hofmeister	3.1
Fosters	4.8
Heineken	4.7
Miller Lite	4.8
Tennants	7.5

Source: M.E.A.L.

minefield. Research shows America to be a shark-infested pool of conflicting images — some attractive, some repellent — while Australia generally strikes the right chord.

"Australians are seen as drinkers in the same way we are — if they think a lager's good, so will we," Watkins says. "The US falls down because Americans aren't seen as beer drinkers." The mix of Paul Hogan, very humour and the sun-scorched outback have worked well for the Australian brands, Fosters and Castlemeine XXXX.

The American brands have had a rougher ride. Even the most discreet reference to its roots has now been obliterated from Boase Massimi Pollitt's campaign for Miller Lite, while Budweiser is desperately trying to shake off the all-American character which it imported at its

launch. But rival agencies who have researched the pride and prejudices of the British lager-drinker tend to see the approach as high risk, questioning the ability of advertising to inject cachet into a country which, for most people, represents maple leaves, Margaret Trudeau and a couple of useful downhill skiers.

Edwards says. "Not if he's fair-minded," Edwards says.

## Housey, housey

Eyes down for a new viewing experience — television bingo. Devised by Europrint Promotions, it has added 400,000 to the weekly sale of *Télé Pêche*, France's equivalent of *TV Times*. It has also done wonders for the main commercial channel, TF1, where the numbers are flashed up at the bottom of the screen during commercial breaks and viewers stand to win 200,000F (about £20,000) a week.

Any British equivalent would notional fall foul of IBA regulations, which limit prizes to a maximum of £100 for any competition which can be won only by someone who sees the programme or commercial. But such rules were made for circumventing. A *Daily Mirror* commercial on Monday offered prizes of up to £40,000 thanks to one loophole: the winning numbers were also printed in the following day's paper.

Europrint say they will be talking to *TV Times* shortly.

## Citizen Maxwell

Robert Maxwell's ambitions to run a national newspaper preceded his purchase of the *Mirror* by many years. As Labour MP for Buckingham in 1966 he tried to start a pro-Labour daily with George Brown and Bob Edwards, then editor of the *Express*. The venture, it appears from Edwards's forthcoming autobiography, *Goodbye Fleet Street*, was a "fiasco". The two men subsequently worked together again when Edwards was editing the *Sunday Mirror* at the time of Maxwell's Citizen Kane-style take-over in 1984. Will Maxwell object to Edwards's account of their relationship? "Not if he's fair-minded," Edwards says.

## Snookered

David Elstein, director of programmes at Thames TV, thinks the BBC has painted itself into a corner in its search for a managing director of network television to succeed Bill Cotton (the job earmarked for Michael Grade). An MD who reports to a deputy director-general who is also offering him programmes in his role as director of news and current affairs is in an impossible position, Elstein says. "They seem to me to have two options: to make John Birt managing director of television as well as deputy director-general, or get someone nonentity from within the BBC to do the job."

## Noddy snub

A TVS documentary to be shown on Easter Sunday, *The Selling of Noddy*, does not show British television in the best of lights. For one thing it was made last April, demonstrating the difficulties re-

gional ITV companies (never mind independent producers) face getting network slots. For another it chronicles the failure of exporter Derek Parker to merchandise Enid Blyton's character in America: US toy firms will not touch characters which have no TV series tie-in, but a New York company looking for co-production finance for a Noddy cartoon from British TV drew a blank. Blyton, it seems, is considered too old-fashioned, even racist, by TV types in the UK. "It seems odd when you consider the rubbish we buy from the States," says the documentary's producer, Bob Mullan.

## Music merger

Last week's Monopolies Commission approval for the merger of the record company Warners and music publisher Chappell's came despite energetic lobbying on behalf of the independent music publishers' group, IMPACT. But lobbyist Charles Miller, who co-ordinated IMPACT's evidence, is not down-hearted. Any abuse of power will be much more difficult now, he says.

## Briefing

*Radio Times*, recognizing that it is becoming a general magazine publishing house, has been persuaded to join the Periodical Publishers' Association after holding out for more than 60 years. Until 1980, June Stevens, the newest board member at ad agency Colman, RSCG & Partners, was a microbiologist at London Zoo. BBC Radio York has offended local churchmen with readings from the *Kama Sutra* on Sunday mornings...

Nick Higham

## Iowa circus

The media are determined not to miss a trick in America's caucus race

Even the press is beginning to admit that it has got out of control in Iowa. There are so many reporters, analysts, commentators, pollsters and television crews in this sparse, bleak state that there are hardly enough Iowans to go around. In their eagerness to feel the pulse of the nation, the media have ended up in an artificial country dubbed "Campaignland".

Caught out by Jimmy Carter's unexpected win in the Iowa caucuses in 1976, the media now dog every candidate every minute of the day. The "significance" of this first vote in the 1988 campaign has therefore risen to a point out of all proportion to the state's size and political weight.

With 13 candidates and two contested nominations, the election is bigger than anything seen before. Iowa is making a small fortune: spending on the contest now exceeds the gross national product of a small Third World nation. Candidates have amassed about \$100 million, and 1,000 paid staff members are criss-crossing the state.

Two thousand television reporters will cover the caucuses. Half the nation's supply of "uplink" trucks — dish-topped vehicles that bounce

television signals off satellites — are expected to be in Des Moines on February 8, the day of the caucuses. "It's going to look like Mars," said Phil Roeder, spokesman of the Iowa Democratic party.

Overseas reporters have descended on Iowa in unprecedented numbers. They are

plified. On February 8, the television networks will attempt to count those attending the 2,500 meetings around the state, before the Democratic officials, in accordance with party rules, cancel the votes for every candidate with less than 15 per cent.

So there will be two results — and the media's count numbers will get the most attention. The media then put their "spin" on the raw figures. The candidate who did better than expected is considered the winner, and goes on to the next contest in New Hampshire with a near monopoly of press attention.

Michael Binyon

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£22,500 p.a. + car

The International Wool Secretariat works to increase global demand for wool and has gained an international reputation for the quality of its Woolmark advertising, merchandising and technical support programmes.

We now seek a creative marketing professional to lead a small team in developing wool's market share in menswear in the UK. Based in London and reporting to the UK Branch Director, the successful candidate will identify and exploit new product marketing opportunities, negotiate promotions with leading retailers and producers and coordinate IWS advertising and PR support for menswear products.

You will also be expected to ensure that the benefits of technological and design developments are transferred to the industry and provide a strong presence for Woolmark products at retail level through merchandising and other support services.

You will have a strong product promotion or merchandising background, preferably in a 'blue-chip' retail clothing environment, and, ideally, some early experience in textile manufacturing. You will be educated to degree level, preferably in a business discipline, and be able to demonstrate first-class leadership and communication skills. You will be aged over 30 and free to travel extensively in the UK and, occasionally, overseas.

A competitive salary, linked to a performance-related scale, will be offered with an excellent package of benefits, including a Sierra/Carlton 2.0i or equivalent.

Applicants, male or female, should write briefly enclosing a C.V. to:



The Personnel Manager  
International Wool Secretariat  
Wool House  
Carlton Gardens  
London SW1Y 5AE

## LONDON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

required for a national charity based in S.E. London, serving blind and partially-sighted people

SALARY £12,500

We urgently need an experienced professional to develop our public relations strategy and to promote our charity.

The successful candidate must have a proven track record in the public relations field.

Candidates for this highly visible appointment will have initiative, excellent communications skills and be a competent administrator.

Additional benefits include:-

Health Care. Pension. Life Assurance. Canteen. Ample Parking

Initial application in writing, together with a full C.V. to:-

Mrs Eileen Howard  
London Association for the Blind  
14-16 Verney Road  
London SE16 3DZ

Closing date for applications - 19th February 1988.



## £20K PACKAGE INC CAR

Small but dynamic publishing company, specialising in arts and antiques, seeks:

## TOP PROFESSIONAL DISPLAY / SALES EXECUTIVES

for potential management position

Must be capable of high work rate, both in the field and by telephone. Only those able to work with minimum supervision towards set goals need apply. Knowledge of production processes an advantage.

Telephone 01-602 9117, Mr Fry

## SENIOR TELEPHONE RESEARCHER

NW3 £16,000

A new, rapidly expanding research company urgently seeks career minded individuals with two years experience of telephone research to manage and co-ordinate a research unit.

Excellent opportunity to progress and play an important part in the development of this company.

For further details please call or send your cv to:

Russell White Management Personnel

2, Swallow Place, London W1R 7AA. Telephone 01-408 1894.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## WEST END ART BOOKSHOP

Wants girl or man over 20 to join small staff

£7,000+

Write with C.V. to:

ST. GEORGE'S GALLERY

8 Duke Street London SW1

## DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT EXECUTIVE

This is the opportunity to prove just how good you are. WE PROVIDE - the weekly market leader in a lively growing market. Our targets, for the right people, are realistic.

YOU PROVIDE - self motivation, energy, enthusiasm, the wish to succeed, the will to go on when targets have been reached and at least two years sales experience.

IN RETURN - good basic salary, commission, company car, pension scheme, optional BUPA membership and an employee share scheme.

For an interview write enclosing your CV to:

Michael J Bye

Group Sales Manager

Maclaren Publishers Limited

Maclaren House

Scarbrook Road

Croydon CR9 1QH



MACLAREN PUBLISHERS LIMITED

## MacUser

Europe's most successful magazine for users of the Apple Macintosh computer, is looking for:

## DEPUTY/FEATURES EDITOR

The successful applicant will work as a key member of a team committed to maintaining the title's editorial excellence and innovation. Swift and accurate subbing skills, an ability to work under pressure to tight deadlines and proven experience in commissioning reviews and features are essential qualities.

He or she will be responsible for all areas of the magazine's operation in the Editor's absence and contribute initiative, enthusiasm and ideas to ensure the magazine meets the considerable challenge of this fast expanding market.

## DESIGNER

The successful applicant must have strong typographical skills, and the ability to produce layouts with flair and creativity. He or she must be capable of working without supervision when necessary, and contribute enthusiasm and ideas as part of a dedicated team.

Write with full CV to Roger Munford, Publisher, MacUser, 14 Rattbone Place, London W1P 1DE. Telephone 01-631 1433.

## GENERAL SALES MANAGER

£25,000 + profit related bonus, 28 Granada & senior executives benefit package

Implementing a sales and marketing strategy that you will formulate based on accurate market assessments for both existing and new projects in the UK and overseas. This major role in the south of England will commitment your team leadership skills and satisfy your long term ambitions.

## EUROPEAN SALES MANAGER (ENGINEERING)

£15,000 - £18,000 + 1.8 GL Sierra, BUPA

The prestige offered by this position is bettered only by a product of technical excellence used by a wide customer base in one of the largest international arenas in the world.

For enquiries in the strictest confidence, contact:

William Barry on 0923 55841, or CV to 19-21 Cleveland Road, Warrford, Herts WD1 1JR





## CREATIVE &amp; MEDIA APPOINTMENTS

Hd&A  
LIMITED

Hd&A is a successful, young, friendly company with a growing nucleus of blue-chip clients. We have recently moved to 'The Works', 6,500 square feet of studio set in West London. We provide complete Design and Agency services that include photography, graphic reproduction and print, and we only employ the very best. Due to recent account gains we now have positions in the following areas: DESIGN · COPYWRITING · ARTWORK · PRODUCTION. So if you are the best, committed to working hard and interested in enjoying a non-smoking environment with excellent salary and company benefits, write to Lis Hollander.

**THE WORKS**  
Unit 2, Colville Road  
London W3 8BL  
01-993 7651

TRYING TO GET  
INTO PR

Fast-growing PR consultancy has opening for male or female TRAINEE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE. Preferably graduate and second jobber. Must be well-presented, well-spoken and keyboard literate.

Apply to Kate Anderson on  
01-968 9285/969 0261

Training salary: negotiable.

*PR with Clout*

**CLOUT PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
76 CAMBRIDGE GARDENS  
LONDON W10 6HS

CLASSIFIED SALES  
MANAGER

£18,000 + CAR

Middlesex County Press are publishers of 4 paid for and 5 free local weekly newspapers covering Middlesex, West London and South Bucks.

We have a vacancy for an experienced Classified Advertising person who is completely familiar with all aspects of the efficient management of a busy Classified Advertisement department.

The Classified Sales Manager will direct the activities of 41 highly competitive Telephone Sales Advisors and 4 Supervisors and be responsible for the attainment of the department's objectives.

Duties will include budgeting and targeting, interpretation of sales records, planning and implementing Classified promotions, monitoring of competitors activities, overseeing sales training programmes, reader/client queries and correspondence, administrative control, all while maintaining a high standard of discipline, morale and motivation at all times.

We offer an extremely competitive salary commensurate with previous experience, attractive bonus potential, and Company car.

Please write, including full C.V. to



Mr R.A. Cowan,  
Middlesex County Press Ltd.,  
Press House,  
Rockingham Road,  
Uxbridge UB8 2YW.

ADVERTISING  
ASSISTANT  
£12,000

Informal close-knit environment for a talented, expressive writer of recruitment advertisements and PR hand-outs. Input on PC, so keyboard skills vital. Very much for an educated self-starter. Good prospects. Please write to

Angela Diamond,  
Office Angels Ltd,  
Wells House, 79 Wells St,  
London W1P 4AX.



## JCR

It's sometimes very hard to find exactly what you're looking for whether it be a qualified Secretary/PA for your company or a fully fledged executive.

We at JCR have a successful track record of matching up both the people and the jobs in all fields. We are now moving on to fill the obvious gap in the market - that stepping stone into a career which has been elusive - and have created a new division under the heading of 'Non-Secretarial'.

If you are looking for that perfect person or feel you are one, please call Jane Crosthwaite or Kate Mole on 01-581 2977/2947 at Jane Crosthwaite Recruitment.

**JANE CROSTHWAITE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS LIMITED**  
21 BEAUCHAMP PLACE,  
LONDON SW3  
01-581 2977/2947

TRAINEE DEALERS  
1st YEAR PROBABLE  
£20,000

The Dollar is dropping do you buy or sell? Such decisions need to be made every minute of the day. Are you motivated by pressure with high financial remuneration. Do you have a good sales attitude and are 21-26 with a good standard of education with the desire to win?

call  
Philip Young  
01-631-3275  
Alexander Mann Associates PLC  
sales recruitment specialists  
231 Tottenham Court Road  
London W1P 9AE

MARKETING MANAGER  
£40K + CAR

If you have a degree or professional qualification in marketing and a proven record of success, then a large company based in Ascot is waiting to hear from you.

Also, if you are experienced and successful in OFFICE FURNITURE SALES and are ready to accept a basic of £14K with OTE £30K plus car, Send your C.V. to;

COLIN WILSON, DBS LTD,  
400 LEA BRIDGE ROAD,  
LONDON E10 7PY,  
or phone Colin on 01-556 4885

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued from page 18

## English Heritage

PERSONAL  
SECRETARIES  
Marketing

salary £8700 pa to £11000 pa  
Stonehenge, Dover Castle, Rievaulx Abbey and Kenwood House are amongst some 400 interesting ancient monuments and historic buildings in our care.

Our Heads of Trading and Membership based in Central London need bright, well organised secretaries with plenty of initiative to carry out a range of duties. You will have a good telephone manner and be able to work under pressure and possess excellent secretarial skills.

We are looking for people with an interest in and knowledge of retail, publishing or marketing and a definite interest in our heritage.

We have a non-contributory pension scheme and generous holiday allowance and give five monument passes to all our staff. For further details and an application form please contact  
Meriel Davies,  
Room 223, 15-17 Great Marlborough Street,  
London, W1V 1AF

DIRECTOR'S  
SECRETARY  
£11,500p.a.

The Property Director of an international property investment/development company requires an experienced, well-educated secretary to work in luxury offices near Holborn Circus. The post is varied and interesting, you will have your own office and be responsible for dealing with all the business and travel commitments as well as certain administrative duties. In addition you will provide secretarial back up to a Property Manager.

Excellent shorthand and audio-typewriting skills are essential and word processing experience would be an advantage. In addition to the salary there are many benefits, including 24 days holiday, free BUPA, non-contributory pension scheme, IFSTL and LV's.

Please send your CV to:

Mrs Stephanie Durrant,  
22-24 Ely Place  
London EC1N 6TG  
01 242 6898  
No Agencies)

## An Advisory Role

£10,000

Super high-profile opening for a young, self-assured professional self-starter with the PR arm of this internationally-acclaimed Management Consultancy. Working as part of an innovative, closely-knit team your responsibilities will include keeping tabs on the consultants; managing busy diaries; organising meetings; getting involved in testing 'state of the art' office systems. Hectic environment offering lots of scope to demonstrate initiative. Confidential typing requested. Age 21-25. Call 01-400 1232.

Recruitment Consultants  
to the Communications Industry

Don't get into a rut. Get into Reed.

FREEDOM  
FUN AND  
FLEXIBILITY

Temporaries - your skills are in demand! Audio and shorthand typists, WP Operators, telephonists and typists - lots of exciting assignments plus an excellent Reed benefits package await you.

Call 01-491 4610

## REED employment

MULTILINGUAL  
SERVICESBILINGUAL  
PA/SECRETARY

Chairman/Managing Director of international marketing head quarters of Cognac House is looking for a very able PA/Secretary (27-45) with fluent French. This is an important role within a busy, young and expanding team and there is plenty of scope for personal work and the possibility of involvement in advertising, PR and marketing projects. Common sense and flexibility are vital, as well as English shorthand, audio and word processing skills. Salary area: £13,500.

01 836 3794

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 9HR

## THE LANSDOWNE GROUP OF COLLEGES

Comprise four leading independent colleges providing further and higher education and professional training.

A vacancy exists for a

## GROUP SECRETARY

who will provide Secretarial and administrative support to the Directors of Operations and Marketing.

Applicants should have at least 2 years secretarial experience, possess degree or good 'A' levels, RSA Stage II or equivalent, and be able to type 40 wpm.

The post essentially requires someone with well-developed interpersonal skills, who can respond to people in a professional and sympathetic manner, and able to maintain a high degree of confidentiality.

Salary scale from £9,370 - £11,000  
Apply in writing with CV to Jane Woolfenden  
151 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0LF

**MEDICAL SECRETARY**  
Experienced Secretary to commence mid February. Audio typing - reception - book-keeping duties for private medical practice. SW1. Suit age 24 plus with mature, reliable outlook. Good salary.

Apply now in writing with C.V. to:  
BOX A73,  
THE TIMES  
1 Virginia Street, Wapping E1 9DD

## SENIOR SECRETARY £12,000

Partner requires 2 Senior Secs. (shorthand useful) to arrange diary, travel and meetings. Will be trained on Apricot PC. 'A' Level education preferred. Age 25+.

**WP OPERATOR (WANG)** £11,000 + Bank perks  
Experience of Glossary/Merge functions necessary to work for marketing team of international bank. Good English, typing 50wpm+ are the requirements of this busy position. Age 25-32.

**ADMIN. SECRETARY** £10,500  
Use your Shorthand and WP skills to assist 2 consultants in this large PR Co. Lots of research work, organising seminars, dealing with the Press and clients. An opportunity to become involved here and use your initiative.

**AUDIO/WP LEGAL SECRETARY** £10,500  
Use your legal experience and good skills to get into this commercial co. All aspects of secretarial duties covered in this interesting position. Flexible and enthusiastic approach required.

**Personnel Appointments**  
95 Aldwych, London WC2B 4DF. Tel. 01-242 0785  
(ansaphone after office hours)



**CHRISTINE  
WATSON LTD**  
3rd Floor  
124 Wigmore St  
London W1

**PUBLISHING** To £11,000  
If the world of Media appeals and you enjoy a creative environment then this is the job for you. You should have good Sh/Typing, be self-motivated, have an interest in video publishing and enjoy a small company environment.

**THE SQUARE MILE** c £13,000  
This prestigious Property Co. needs a well presented PA/Sec to assist the MD. Salary 100/60, a people person, discretion and diplomacy essential for this interesting job.

**PA IN ADVERTISING** To £14,000  
Two superb opportunities have arisen within this leading W1 Co. for top flight PA/Secs. Age 22-32, excellent presentation, good skills and the social graces all a must for this involving and demanding role. To hear more call immediately.

**SLOANE STREET** c £13,000  
If Knightsbridge, a prestigious office and a PA role sounds interesting then this position could be for you. The Co. needs a PA/Office Manager with WP and Audio, a people person who can be totally involved and help run this office. This position could take you beyond the secretarial field.

01-935 8235 (REC CONS)  
Let us make our success, your success

Exhibitions  
£11,000

Develop your career in the exhibitions field as you administer two major events for this Holland Park based company. Good organisational skills required plus a desire to develop the sales aspect of the role. Two years relevant experience. WP skills and an outgoing personality need. Age indicator: mid-20s-early 30s.

Senior PA/Sec  
£15,000 ++

Director of a major British plc is looking for a Senior PA/Secretary with an impeccable track record which will include experience in working at director level in a large company. Shorthand and typing skills must be first class (at least 100/70). Age 33-50.

To discuss these and other current vacancies, please call 01-629 7282.

**GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS**  
7 PRINCES STREET, W1. 01-491 7282

THE LANGUAGE OF  
FINANCE

£12,000 + Banking Bsns

The Corporate Finance Director of a City merchant bank urgently needs a well organised and flexible Secretary. You will be required to take charge of his daily routine - your duties will encompass normal secretarial responsibilities, including travel arrangements, administration of deals and communication with clients in their language. If you have fluent French, German or Italian, can converse easily in a second of these, have skills of 100/ 60/ WP and are aged 25-35, please telephone 588 3535.

## Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

LEGAL ADVISOR'S  
SECRETARY

£12,000 + paid o'time

Greater degree of involvement for someone 24+ from legal or professional background. New advice of lawyers on the C.C. C.C. needs strong Audio/WP. Proof read legal text.

Call SUZANNE DUNPHY on 01 630 0844 or meet her at 189 Victoria Street, London SW1.

**Office Angels**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## PA/ALL ROUNDER

For this interesting, varied position, working for a small, international trading company, you will be responsible for the smooth day to day running of the office, client liaison, assisting in the production of the accounts, plus usual secretarial duties.

A superb opportunity for a self-motivated graduate with some typing skills, keen to get on and become an essential part of the team.

Age 23+. Salary £10,000 - Regularly Reviewed  
Tel: 01 370 1381 - ALISON

£11,000 PLUS BONUS  
ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY

So be able to assist the Company Administrator for a SW1. Applicant should be self-sufficient, punctual, flexible and confident in handling highly confidential work. Secretarial skills are required but background of administration in commercial environment very important. Skills 90/50. Age 25-32.

Phone 437 8476 or 734 3768  
133 Oxford Street  
Rec Cons  
MILLER MCNISH



Prestigious manufacturer of porcelain and crystal has vacancies for Managers / Managers in their Concession Shops of leading department stores in London and Manchester. Successful candidates must have good proven retail experience, self motivation and enthusiasm to succeed in career. Telephone or CV to  
Rosenthal Studio Hoes,  
5-7 Brompton Road  
London SW3 1ED  
Tel: 01-584 1069  
or 01-584 0683

MILLBANK  
PUBLICATIONS  
is seeking  
TELESALES EXECUTIVES

for our sales offices at Covent Garden, Croydon and Reading. Earn up to 22% commission selling on our UK, International and Charity Publications.

We are a long established International Company expanding throughout the UK.

Phone Darryl Chappelow  
01-379 3036  
or  
(0734) 504001

مساعدة من الاموال



## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

DIRECTORS' PA  
LADIES FASHION  
MANUFACTURER  
WC1

Aged 25/30 with excellent secretarial and administrative skills, to work closely with Sales Director and Assistant on major accounts and generally handle sales correspondence and administration for busy sales team.

Fashion experience advantageous but self motivation and keenness to progress more important.

A varied, hectic and interesting career opportunity for the right individual, offering a good salary and excellent staff discounts.

Please apply with full CV in strictest confidence to MR. D.R. WEENER, LONDON INTERNATIONAL FASHIONS LTD, 55 ARGYLE STREET, LONDON WC1

## PA TO CHIEF EXEC.

Our client, a world leader in their field, is seeking a highly competent P.A. to their Chief Executive.

Based at their International H.Q., the successful candidate will be expected to deal with all aspects of corporate affairs and a considerable amount of administrative work will be required when attending to his diverse personal interests.

Applicants will have a proven senior secretarial record, a natural presence and the ability to maintain the highest of standards in a pressurised, but rewarding environment.

Skills: 100/60 (minimum) + WP

Age: 35-45

Carrington House, 130 Regent Street, LONDON W1R 5FE. Tel: 01-437 1564

**\$16,000  
plus Bonus  
and Benefits**

MacBlain Nash  
WEST END  
RECRUITMENT  
CONSULTANTS

SECRETARY-PROGRAMME  
PLANNING

(CENTRAL LONDON)

We are seeking a Secretary to work for the Senior Manager, Programme Planning, who is responsible for Co-ordinating programme facilities and resources, accommodation and other management responsibilities in the Programme Department.

In addition to the usual Secretarial duties, requiring shorthand and typing skills of 100/50 wpm, the successful candidate will assist in the day-to-day administration of the department and become involved with the extensive liaison between Programme and Production departments and other areas in the Company.

A sound background in administration and the secretarial function is essential. Knowledge of television, whilst desirable, is considered less important than an intelligent and sensible approach.

Thames is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes all applications regardless of sex, ethnic origin and marital status.

For an application form, to be returned by no later than the closing date, Thursday 18 February 1988, please contact the Personnel Department on:

01 387 9494

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DESIGN & MARKETING COMPANY

Required for Managing Director to assist with daily running of busy office. Varied stimulating duties require secretarial, receptionist and administrative skills. Ideal opportunity for adaptable career minded person seeking challenging role. Excellent salary and conditions.

ALSO REQUIRED

Young energetic person Friday required to carry out varied duties, some reception and typing work, an opportunity for career advancement in busy stimulating environment. Suit school/college leaver.

TELEPHONE KATE POCOCK ON: 01 631 1434

(NO AGENCIES)

## Get Into PR!

£10,000

Fantastic opening for a bright, eager, young self-starter with this West-End based, high-profile PR Consultancy. Working alongside their young, extrovert charming MD in a full support role, your responsibilities will include liaising with VIP clients, organising and attending openings, conferences, managing a busy diary, etc. Initiative, flair and excellent communication skills essential for this front-line role. Genuine prospects to get involved in all aspects of PR. Accurate (70/60) skills? Age 19+? Call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants  
to the Communications Industry

GLOBAL ANALYSIS  
SYSTEMS LTD

Director's PA required within young city firm specialising in portfolio management and international research. Position necessitates a good deal of initiative, judgement and understanding of director/company's function. Successful candidate will have sound secretarial background with excellent admin and organisational skills, experienced at director level - preferably with financial/City orientation. Good salary base.

Apply, by Tue 8 Feb: Sara Lawrence, Personnel Administrator, GAS Ltd, 1-3 Tavistock Inn, EC1A 1AU. Tel 583 1978

WP/AUDIO SECRETARY  
- LITIGATION

Watts & Partners is a progressive firm providing professional services in the property, medical and the construction industry.

We require an intelligent and enthusiastic secretary, with plenty of initiative and excellent WP/Audio skills, for our Litigation Department. Previous experience within a legal or surveying practice would be an asset as would a liking for detail.

A competitive salary is offered together with a staff profit share scheme, flexible working week, optional pension scheme and 4 weeks holiday.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to: Marion Haddad, Watts & Partners, 58 Brook Street, London W1Y 1YF

EXPERIENCED  
SECRETARY

Small friendly office. Fashion co. on Regent Street near Oxford Circus tube. S/H a must. W/P experience and a second language helpful. Good attention to detail. £11,000 plus.

01 580 3686

Secretary/PA  
to Managing Director

of expanding wine retailing group. For details of this exciting opening

Please send CV to Tracy Clark, Majestic Wine Warehouses Ltd, 421 New Kings Road, London SW6 4RN

ADMIN  
SECRETARY/PA

Administrative Secretary/PA needed for young, small but busy Games based Design Consultancy. Applicants should be well presented with excellent typing skills and the ability to work accurately under pressure. WP knowledge essential. Salary: c£8,000 pa.

Ask for Janet on: 01-491 3431

RECEPTIONIST/  
TYPIST

Required for prestigious Mayfair executive recruitment consultancy. Applicants should be well presented with excellent typing skills and the ability to work accurately under pressure. WP knowledge essential. Salary: c£8,000 pa.

Ask for Janet on: 01-491 3431

Consul Club, a prestigious membership-based business service with a European network, is looking for two career-minded people to join its small well-established London team. The Clubs provide a wide range of business, financial and travel related services to international executives and to personal leisure travellers.

This is a highly specialised area of customer service, therefore experience in dealing with VIP clients is essential. Applicants should be highly presentable, and able to work on their own initiative. Fluency in one or more European languages would be an advantage.

## Club Officer (up to £12,000)

You will already have several years Senior Secretarial/PA experience and be familiar with modern office systems and practices.

Secretary/Assistant  
Club Officer (up to £10,000)

You will have a minimum of three years' sound secretarial experience, including the use of modern office technology. In addition, previous experience as a Receptionist would be helpful.

Both positions offer a generous salary and benefits package. Please reply, with full C.V., quoting current salary package to: Barbara Saccani, Personnel Officer, American Express Europe Ltd, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ.

AMERICAN EXPRESS  
CONSUL CLUB

Putting your style and efficiency to work ...

Mayfair Elegance  
£11,000 plus bonus

Excellent opportunity for a mature, outgoing and quick-thinking individual to join this prestigious, trendy young Architects practice. They are involved in commercial property design and development and you will be working alongside two of their most creative and successful London partners, organising meetings and site appointments, co-ordinating projects, managing hectic diaries, etc. Good organisational ability and a sense of humour vital. Young, very social environment. Skills (80/50)? Age 23+? Call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

EXECUTIVE/PA  
BAHRAIN

Full exp terms + car. Tax free negotiable salary

We seek an experienced, level headed and exceptionally hard working executive secretary/PA. The successful candidate will work with the Managing Director of a diversified Group of Companies based in Bahrain.

Probably aged between 30 and 40 the successful candidate must be capable of organising the day to day timetable, business affairs and secretarial requirements of the Managing Director who is a Gulf Businessman. This is a multi-ethnic business environment with considerable international involvement. The group management includes a number of senior British expatriate executives.

Free furnished accommodation, car, air fares on appointment and twice a year for leave together with a negotiable tax free salary in the range of £12,000 per annum equivalent in local currency will be offered to the successful candidate.

Applicants should send a copy of their C.V. together with a covering letter explaining their particular suitability for this sensitive and demanding appointment. These should be addressed to:

P.O.Box No A17  
The Times  
1 Virginia Street  
Wapping E1 9DD

## HEAVEN SCENT

£11,500 neg

Join this world famous Cosmetic and Fragrance House as Secretary to their Managing Director. This position offers lots of variety as you handle staff recruitment, office administration and act as right hand to a very charming boss. Beautiful offices, 100/60 skills and a good knowledge of French needed.

INTERESTED IN DESIGN  
TO £15,000

A Specialist Design Consultancy who has some very famous consumer name clients seeks a PA/Secretary to their Director. Spacious hi-tech offices and a very informal atmosphere. You should be a car driver, with strong organisational skills and 60 wpm audio ability.

Elizabeth Hunt  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Grosvenor Street London W1

## Faraway Places

£11,000 - Hammersmith

Brand-new front-line opening for a mature, professional, motivated self-starter with this high-profile diverse Entertainment and Leisure Group. Working alongside the charming Retail Director you will be liaising closely with VIP clients etc. Lots of scope to use your initiative to define further areas of responsibility. The ability to thrive in a pressurised, fast-moving environment essential. Strong organising flair pre-requisite. Benefits include discounted travel. Age 25-35. Skills (90/60)? Call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants  
to the Communications Industry

## PA/SECRETARY

We need a go-ahead PA who genuinely wants to become involved at senior partner level. You are an experienced (probably level 1) secretary with excellent skills, incl. WP who wants to work on your own initiative. We are a medium-sized and expanding City international legal practice and our senior partner has a very interesting and varied workload. Initiative and commitment are essential and will be well rewarded. Salary: £11,000 + depending on experience. Please contact: Jules Richardson (01-606 8261)

## Maine-Tucker

LESS OF THE DREADED TYPING!  
£11,500

This is a wonderful opportunity to do less of the dreaded typing and more of using your creative powers and ideas (80/50). Working with 2 charming businessmen in SW1 you will get immersed in everything from setting up presentations to being responsible for Marketing Information. The best person has just been promoted! A part from impeccable typing and some audio you need to be smart, efficient and motivated. The company has superb Career Prospects and the people are young, positive and fun. Age 20-25.

50 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone: 01-225 0548-9

LIVELY, WELL ORGANISED  
SH. SEC. IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE

For young, expanding Head Office Team in Financial Services. W.P. experience preferable suit 2nd jobber. Salary c.£9,000 p.a.

Please telephone Helen on (01) 245 1061

## MARKETING SECRETARY

£13,500 pa

Our client specialises in Marketing for the Oil Industry and you are likely to be a Secretary seeking a 'step up' for your next career move. This Deputy MD will use all your shorthand secretarial skills and will willingly delegate ad hoc projects such as conference organising. Large Company benefits add to this employer's already attractive environment in the City.

01-491 1868

## Maine-Tucker

COMMERCIAL MIND  
CREATIVE FLAIR

£9,000 +

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Telephone 498 2887 before 8.45 p.m. and we will post overnight. 'wards and all reports on all our clients. SECRA vacancies and details of how our impartial reporting system reduces the risk of accurate interviews; and/or send CV to Premium Secretaries, 1 Bankside Street, London W1M 5BN

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Peter Bills finds Carleton saddened by the state of Rugby Union in England

## Running down a blind alley

A rugby-shirted runner pounding his way through the woods at three o'clock on a Saturday afternoon? Surely not. Players everywhere are meant to be on the field at that time. But here was John Carleton, former England international and British Lion, enhancing his stamina and fitness without a thought for his club Orrell as he has been his worst this season. Carleton, 32, has dropped out of the game, disillusioned, dejected and saddened by the state of the English game.

Carleton has been one of England's finest recent internationals: 26 caps in a career spanning six seasons; two tours with the British Lions. He was an important member of England's grand slam side in 1980, at Murrayfield his three tries led England's side to a 75,000 crowd, the grand slam, triple crown and first championship win since 1963 were completed.

### England have stood still

Carleton was a player to endure as well. Last season, England's coaching panel asked him if he would be available for the World Cup. His reply was a study in realism; were they sure they wanted someone of his age? Would not a younger player be better? Persuaded that he was firmly in mind, he acquiesced, never to hear another word on the subject.

Not that personal vanity features in Carleton's premature departure from the game. There is only one area in which he indulges in pique, and that is the overall weakness of the English game. Despite signs of an improvement in Paris, Carleton says: "We have stood still for some years, but New Zealand have improved and so the gap people talk about is widening. I have not seen a good club match all season; the standard is so poor."

Carleton sensed early this season that his appetite for the game was waning. "I played two matches, one for Orrell seconds and the other for the first team in midweek. But I was on automatic pilot; there was no spark, no pleasure."

To continue in those circumstances would have been fraudulent to those around him, he reasoned, so he opted for a month away. Helen, his wife, told him he would be back at Orrell within three weeks. That was four months



Words of warning: Carleton has been disillusioned by selection policy

ago and he does return, but only for training. Not on the night the first team trains — "that might be awkward for some people". Instead, he trains twice a week at the club and runs regularly, often up to 12 miles on Saturday afternoons.

"A group of us go together; we have a laugh do some work and share a few beers afterwards. I am probably fitter now than I have been for years. I have no desire whatsoever to play rugby again. Not at the moment, anyway. I have not officially retired and I will never make that announcement. But the appetite returns quickly. It's doubtful whether I will play any more."

The longer you are away, the more you find to do outside the game. I spend so much more time with Helen now and we do things together. Perhaps the saddest thing is I don't miss the game at all.

He has watched little, but has seen some Rugby League and enjoyed it. Yet of his first love, Carleton says: "I honestly feel the standard has gone down and it frustrates me to see what is happening on the international front. The greatest disappointment is England's lack of consistency; the last time anyone believed in continuity was during the Mike Davies era when we won the grand slam. Since then, every

fresh administration has swept the decks instead of trying to build on the previous administration. That cannot be right.

"People said how well England were doing at the World Cup until the Welsh match. But even if you lose a game, you don't throw out most of the players. How can Peter Williams play second, solid game during the World Cup and then not even figure in the selectors' minds only six months later? And how on earth can Jamie Salmon go from No. 1 centre at the World Cup to something like No. 8 in England? No player loses form that drastically."

"When New Zealand or France introduce a new cap, he is fitted in existing established players. They have consistent selections and a new player is hardly noticed. Even those brought in have been on the fringe for some time. In the home countries, players appear from nowhere, are thrust in and then despatched just as quickly when the team loses."

### Cotton would bring a brighter era

"Until England maintain some consistency in selection policy, nothing will alter. And I don't believe it will; in five years time, we shall be in just the same situation as now."

No player who appears in England's final international of a season has any confidence he will be there at the start of the next year, he claims. Thus, extending the argument, players simply do not make the progress they should. "Kevin Simms was a better player three years ago," he believes.

The name of one man who would plot a new and brighter future raises an excitement in Carleton. "If Brian Cotton were given the licence and freedom to do it his way, I believe his knowledge, experience and personality would improve matters considerably. Under Fran, players would have to do a terrific job to win a cap, but once they got in there, they would keep that shirt until someone seized it from them. Cotton is the one person with the right credentials to take the whole thing by the scruff of the neck. Sadly, the administrators never give anyone much licence. The restrictions placed on most people in that job are so great, they just suffer sheer frustration."

## Ringland ready for return

By George Ace

Trevor Ringland will play for Ballymena against Terenure College at Eaton Park on Saturday week — seven days before Ireland meet France in Paris. It will be Ringland's first game since he sustained a neck injury 12 minutes into the match against Scotland at Lansdowne Road on January 16. It was only the second time in his life that he had to be taken off; the first was when he broke his collar bone in a school's fixture.

Ringland was in buoyant mood yesterday after a second visit to an orthopaedic specialist. "The restriction on my running has been lifted and I will immediately step up my training," he said.

"My first target is to play for Ballymena against Terenure on the thirteenth — I hope that is not unlikely — and I am confident that I will be 100 per cent fit by then. The specialist was pleased with my progress and although he warned me not to go mad with my immediate training schedule I now consider my prospects of playing against France as extremely bright."

Ringland is one of three players who have been out of action since the Scottish match. Leicester's Andrew, damaged a medial ligament in his right knee and Philip Matthews broke a small bone in his nose. All three will attend this weekend's two-day squad training session in Dublin and are expected to be fit to make the trip to Paris.

## Yet another Underwood on the horizon

Tony Underwood, the young brother of the England wing, will play for English Universities against the Welsh Universities at Richmond on Friday. Tony Underwood, a student at Leicester University, replaces Hackney, the injured Loughborough wing (David Hands writes).

The English have had to make a further change at hooker, where Jeavons-Faenell (Nottingham) has a broken nose and is replaced by Hudson to become the seventh Loughborough player in the side.

Loughborough are optimistic that their UAU quarter-final against Sheffield will be played today, whatever the weather. Durham, the holders, must wait for the result of the postponed challenge round match between Imperial College London and Leicester before they know their opponents.

Imperial, who play Clapp at loosehead prop because Jenkins has a broken ankle, confirmed yesterday that their game, held over from last week because their pitch was unfit, would go ahead.

## Maesteg puts police in line

Maesteg has kept its fixture with South Wales Police despite its displeasure at losing Nick Jones, the lock forward, to the police side (Peter Bills writes).

Feeling within Maesteg was divided between angry members wishing to fracture relations and those favouring retaining links. But after a meeting between officials of the two clubs, Maesteg's management committee decided to take no further action.

## Vintage brew brings a maturity to second row

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Whoever wins at Twickenham on Saturday, John Orwin and Phil May will have much to discuss when the dust has settled over the first five nations' championship match between England and Wales. Topics may include the rewards of winning your first cap after your thirtieth birthday or even the price of beer — May sells it as a brewery representative, Orwin sells it over the counter of his Bedfordshire public house.

The careers of both men collide remarkably at Twickenham. For Orwin, this season is a second coming after spending just one year — 1985 — in the international eye for Wales. Saturday is the culmination of 14 years toil on Llanelli's behalf during which he would hardly be human if he did not believe that his chance of a Welsh cap had gone.

Both will be marking each other in the lineout and both have the respect for each other's attainments which comes from conflicts on other fields: when Orwin was at Gloucester he played several times against May and their latest meeting was at last season's Mobil Memorial Match at Northampton when Orwin played for East Midlands and May for the Barbarians.

"Anyone who has put that amount of effort into the game reserves the right to be a bit of a diva," Orwin believes. "Phil May will be harder than Condon was in the French game. Condon is a stander

rather than a leaper at lineouts. May is very good on his own ball. One of his main strengths at Llanelli is his leadership — he leads by example."

May says of Orwin: "He has always been a strong forward. When he was at Gloucester they were a really formidable unit. He's a grafting forward and now he's with Bedford, he's obviously found a new challenge."

Orwin was three months short of his 31st birthday when he was called unexpectedly into England's side against Romania in 1985 as a late replacement for the injured Jim Siddall. He stayed for the rest of the year, winning seven caps before changing clubs, changing jobs and retiring, once more to relative obscurity.

May wins his first cap at the age of 31 and perhaps the key to his success was his change, in mid career, from a middle jumper to a front jumper. When he began his career Wales had Allan Martin and Geoff Whelan in the second row; then Robert Norster and John Perkins came together so only now does May receive what many in Llanelli consider his just deserts.

Llanelli looks large in May's life. He was born there, went to school there, came back to teach there and his firm is based there. I daresay if the town had boasted a university he would have attended it but he went instead to the nearby Swansea University College, Swansea, to do a BSc in Economics. Accom-

pany with the borough council did not appeal so he went to Aberystwyth University to train as a teacher.

Three years ago he changed course and joined the local brewery as a sales representative — inevitably his area is Llanelli and the Gower peninsula. What his club thinks of him may be gathered on his five-year tenure as captain which included the high point of his career — winning the Schweppes Welsh Cup in 1985 when no one fancied Llanelli's chances.

Last season a good trial suggested a cap within reach but Wales recalled Steve Staiton. "I played in the trial this season with no great expectations and obviously I was delighted to be picked," May said. "I don't think my age necessarily makes me a better forward but I hope it helps me cope with the nerves better."

"At this stage of my career — and I hope for a couple more seasons — fitness levels for a big man are the most difficult aspect. Its a 12 months a year job now and you can't leave off in the summer."

May visited Twickenham early in his career. In Swansea's last appearance in the UAU final in 1976, since then he has returned regularly for Llanelli's September fixture with Harlequins.

Orwin has made regular appearances at Twickenham since a back-row forward, apart from internationals and trials, in club and service rugby — indeed it does not seem so long ago since he was a goal kicking No. 8 for the RAF, which calls to mind his military and his early days as a full back before some forward-looking coach converted him into a youthful lock.

"In the forwards you don't reach maturity until you are 29," Orwin believes. "You are physically strong, you have developed an older head, you know what you are doing. Some of the younger players tend to waste their physical attributes."

"Since joining Bedford my game has improved because I'm one of the leading lights and I have to perform. We don't have great scrummage and lineout ability there so we make a conscious effort to keep the ball alive."



Orwin: a new challenge

May: deserves reward

## Colts pose a giant task

By David Hands

Between February 12 and 14, as part of the preparation for a two-match visit to Italy in March and games against Wales and France in April.

The average height of the colts' pack against London was 6ft 2in, an inch taller than shorter, while the colts have two other locks of 6ft 7in to provide back-up, and a replacement prop of 17st. It has yet to be established whether the future of the game is in good hands — it is certainly in big ones.

The Colts played the second of a series of games against regional sides last weekend, beating the North 23-3 at the Northern club. Their next squad training will be at Bristol on Saturday.

They found it desperately hard to come to terms with the game and mud, but played with great spirit. For Ellismere College, a charged down kick almost on the line was followed by a five metre scrum, from which the Ellismere pack registered a comfortable, almost casual, push-over. Best, the game's outstanding player, got the touchdown and Marvell converted.

Ellismere's second try followed another pushover situation and when it was apparent that Bews could not score again, slick right to left passing put

## Bews baffles Balmoral

By Michael Stevenson

Balmoral College, from Buenos Aires, playing the penultimate match of their European tour, lost a lively but disjointed contest by a goal, three tries and a penalty to a penalty.

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## Wasps put Moseley in good cheer

By David Hands

Wasps, beaten once in their five league games thus far, have decided not to downgrade their Courage Clubs Championship fixture against Moseley at Friday, despite having five players absent with the England squad.

Their decision will delight Moseley, who lost a valuable sponsorship last weekend when they had to postpone a home league game with Waterloo in favour of the John Player Special Cup tie against Wakefield. Moseley's reward was a place in the fourth round of the cup, after a back-row forward, probably their place in the first division.

They are able once more to select Jeavons, the former England flanker, after his successful return to the first team against Wakefield. Indeed back row is now an area of strength for Moseley. Masters, having proved his fitness and both Hickey and Shillington pressing for places alongside Barr, the captain.

Should Moseley win, there will be less pressure on them to rearrange their fixtures. However, although the Lancasters are still chasing the first division championship, they will be keen to play.

Waterloo will be hoping to extend their unbeaten league record against Coventry on Sunday, when Coventry field a side missing Minshall, their young centre, who has gone to New Zealand for six months to play rugby in the Taranaki area. Funnell moves up from full back to replace him, leaving room for Potter to come in.

Wasps, meanwhile, field Rose at lock against Moseley, as they did at Nottingham last weekend. Normally a back-row forward, Rose moves into the second row because of injury to O'Leary and Bonner, though the latter is recovering swiftly from an Achilles tendon operation.

Both Bonner and Bailey, the former England wing, hope to play on Friday by which time they are playing again by the end of the month, but will miss the cup game against Gloucester on February 13. However, Simmons, the hooker, who is replacing O'Leary, is optimistic that he will have recovered from a calf injury

## Desert Orchid favourite for repeat victory

By Christopher Goughing

Desert Orchid, last year's winner, heads the market for Saturday's Leicestershire Handicap Chase at Sandown Park.

David Elsworth's front-running grey is 7-2 favourite with Mecca for the £30,000-added feature race with stable companion "N" Reason also among the market leaders at 11-2.

Thirteen were declared at yesterday's four-day stage with recent Irish import Darkorion among them. Nigel Tinkler's latest acquisition, bought to run in the Grand National for the Full Circle syndicate, is likely to make his English debut at the Esher course and is rated a 9-1 chance.

Full betting: 7-2 Desert Orchid, 5-1 Chatter Party, 4-1 "N" Reason, 11-2 Stearby, 7-1 Sun Rising, 8-1 Foyle Fisherman, 9-1 Darkorion, 16-1 Chief Ironside, 20-1 Kip, 20-1 Pussycat, 25-1 Members, 20-1 Celtic Shout, second favourite for the Chatter Party, will have his final preparation race in the Lee Cooper Hurdle on the same Sandown card.

A stable spokesman said yesterday: "Weather permitting he will run and it will be his last outing before Cheltenham."

Champion Hurdle betting news yesterday, concerned

French challenger Marly River, now 9-1 from 10-1 with Ladbrokes after a bet of £40,000 to £4,000.

Salom, another Cheltenham hopeful, will also be in action at Sandown in the Tote Jackpot Handicap Hurdle.

The Michael Robinson-trained gelding has his sights set on the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle but could have another outing in the Persian War Hurdle at Cheltenham before going to Cheltenham.

Surf Board, yet to run over hurdles, is the subject of substantial support for the Triumph Hurdle with Mecca, who reduced their offer from 20-1 to 14-1.

Nick Henderson's four-year-old new make his debut at Sandown on Friday.

Another ante-post gamble developed yesterday on Sharblak in the William Hill Lincoln. The sponsors trimmed their offer from 25-1 to 14-1 while Corns have cut the four-year-old's odds from 33-1 to 20-1.

Aintree's Embankment viewing area will be revamped for Seagram Grand National Day on April 5. The alterations will provide a better view of the racing for up to 50,000 spectators. New facilities will include a large video screen which will enable racers to watch the action all round the course.

## Top names to support O'Neill charity evening

By Phil McLennan

Leading personalities from the world of sport, including Steve Davis, Johnnie Walker, and Sebastian Coe, are joining forces to support Jonjo O'Neill's charity evening in London next month.

The event is confidently expected to contribute more than £50,000 towards the building of a new wing at Christie's Hospital, Manchester, where O'Neill was successfully treated for cancer.

The date for the charity ball — Saturday, March 12 — was chosen for its proximity to the National Hunt Festival (March 15-17) and several of the top lots to be auctioned on the evening relate to O'Neill's Cheltenham Gold Cup triumph on Dawn Run at the 1986 festival.

The boots and whip used by the former champion jockey in that unforgettable race will come under the hammer of Bonhams along with other paintings of O'Neill and the ill-fated Irish mare by Roy Miller and David Denyer.

Other racing prizes to be auctioned include a day out with champion jockey Steve Cauthen at Newmarket and an all-expenses paid racing weekend courtesy of Ladbrokes.

Sebastian Coe and Steve Davis have each booked tables for 10 and Davis has donated a course of snookers as one of the items for auction.

Liverpool and Manchester United are each offering a day out with the club, which would include the chance for the buyer to nominate a match day mascot of his or her choice.

A commemorative brochure, featuring the work of Christie's Hospital, is currently being produced and advertising space is still available.

About 60 per cent of the 600 tickets for the evening, at £35 each, have already been sold. Further details can be obtained from Jonjo O'Neill, 36 Calhoun Road, London W14 0JA.

Earlier in the day the Willie Hastings-Bass had a near miss with El Rey. Paul took the mount looking like getting the raiders off to a fine start when going clear two furlongs out in the Prix de Juan les Pins. However, the rain-softened ground took its toll and Rhythme Fou was produced with a late challenge to deprive Hastings-Bass of his second winner of the meeting.

Breaking smartly Clarentia made a smooth start for a second two-length success, with Konig Aspros just depriving Martin

to amateur races on the flat and in that department he has shown himself to be one of the outstanding jumping prospects in the country.

Last time out he was an easy five-length winner at Leopardstown. Mullins has elected to run him in the Donadea Hurdle at Naas this afternoon provided that the course suits an early morning inspection.

If Redundant Pal jumps as well today as he did at Punchestown he would surely win here and possibly earn himself a place in the Mullins team for Cheltenham.

Earlier in the afternoon Merry Mullins looks a sound bet in the mares' maiden hurdle. Like Redundant Pal, she is a bumper winner and prior to that she had shown that she could jump by winning a point-to-point.

Mary O'Malley landed a gamble at Navan, beating Barney Burnett, and although she has a long way to go to catch up in the Brittas Opportunity Handicap Hurdle, the standard of the opposition is correspondingly much lower.

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It is, though, one area in which the progress of the virus has been studied. Virus infections continue to be one of the major causes of ill-health — and subsequent loss of performance — in the horse and Richard Macaness, on behalf of the National Trainers Federation, appealed for "further research into viruses which afflict the thoroughbred."

Since its inception in 1961 the Levy Board has contributed some £3 million towards equine veterinary research, including about £1 million in the current financial year.

At present it has 30 individual projects on a variety of subjects beyond those discussed yesterday at institutions throughout the country, and a further 11 at the Animal Health Research Board.

The Levy Board provides just over half of the total financial commitment to research with the balance coming from various other organizations and private donations.

But by whatever yardstick research is measured, without it, the British Royal Observer in his opening address, "the horse-owning population would know a great deal less."

However, the last, perhaps reassuring, word belongs to Roger Harris of the Animal Health Trust. "Science can help to win the war," he concluded. "But it will not create winners."

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## Trainers call for more viral research

By George Rae

Veterinary medicine came to the forefront at a conference staged by the Horserace Betting Levy Board in London yesterday.

In a day-long presentation, held every five years under the auspices of the Levy Board to consider development in equine science, a series of specialists offered a similar message: Progress is being made but ready answers are not easy to come by.

Three broad areas — virus infections, immunology and nutrition — were studied. Virus infections continue to be one of the major causes of ill-health — and subsequent loss of performance — in the horse and Richard Macaness, on behalf of the National Trainers Federation, appealed for "further research into viruses which afflict the thoroughbred."

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Today's Hereford



CRICKET: THE UNSUNG HERO WHO SAVED THE BICENTENNIAL TEST BY FILING IT IN A TRAY MARKED TEDIUM

# Boon's companion of honour

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Sydney

David Boon's unbending concentration saved a Test match yesterday, but there are those in Australia who will not thank him for it. His unbeaten 184 at Sydney spanned eight hours and was a work of cricketing heroism which, sadly, is never likely to receive full recognition.

Boon's achievement was to direct the Bicentennial Test match to stalemate. It was the only ambition open to him and he fulfilled it impeccably. At the same time he filed this match in a tray marked tedium, which won him few friends among the new breed of Australian cricket watchers.

There are those who believe this was a party game played in a po-faced manner unsuitable to the occasion. They think the birthday spirit should have dominated the tactics, ensuring adventurous cricket and a positive Italian cricket watch.

There are those who believe this was a party game played in a po-faced manner unsuitable to the occasion. They think the birthday spirit should have dominated the tactics, ensuring adventurous cricket and a positive Italian cricket watch.

In essence, they say that the teams should have forgotten they were playing a Test match and indulged in a bit of fun instead. To take such a course would have insulted everyone's intelligence and degraded the basis of Test cricket.

If the match did not live up to the hype which preceded it, it is the fault of the administrators, who may have learned that scheduling a Test as a carnival event is rather like asking the Royal Shakespeare Company to play pantomime.

The MCC made a very wise decision when settling on a Test match at Lord's between two multinational invitation sides to mark their bicentenary, in hindsight, those responsible for Australia's 200th birthday party might have been better advised to do something similar.

It was not that this game had nothing to commend it. In many ways it was a classic struggle, one team achieving such supremacy that the other was obliged to dig deep into resources of technique and temperament to survive.

It was, however, one for the connoisseurs and the disapproving crowd figures showed it. The aggregate attendance of 103,831 was almost 50,000 down on the optimistic forecast and only 8,645 turned up yesterday. The two captains were aware of the dilemma but, rightly, felt unable to abandon their training in the hard school.

As Gatting said: "This was a Test match between England and Australia and we had to play it as such. That is always going to mean competitive cricket, bicentenary or not. One side was battling to save the game so it could never be the occasion people had hoped for."

Allan Border, Australia's captain, was in full agreement. "If we had got the sort of start England did on day one, then maybe we would have been a bit more aggressive on day two, but basically I would have played things exactly as they did."

Poor Gatting ended the game feeling very sorry for himself. A bout of influenza which had been troubling him for two days got the better of him and he stayed in the

dressings-room wrapped in blankets after lunch.

When questioned later on his use of Dilley on Monday evening, which ensured time would be lost to bad light, he replied, perhaps a shade sheepishly: "I just did what I thought was right at the time."

In the event, his error probably had no bearing, for Boon batted throughout yesterday with such implacable assurance that all an extra 90 minutes would have achieved was to bring him a bicentenary double century.

He did not give a chance in 492 minutes' batting and earned handsome tributes from Border, who said: "I have never seen him play so well against the turning ball. If he had a weakness, that was it. But he has put in endless work on his game and today it was textbook stuff."

Boon's moustache and ample girth make him a caricature of the popular Australian image. He does not, off the field, look much like an international cricketer, but last winter's Ashes tour he seldom looked like an international cricketer on the field, either.

Apart from one painfully earned century in Adelaide, he totalled 31 runs in seven Test innings before Australia dropped him. It was a set-back which seems to have been the making of him, and since regaining his place in Sharjah in April, he has not stopped making runs. He is only 27 and there seems no reason why he should not open profitably for Australia for some years to come.

The first of only two wickets taken yesterday did not fall until 20 minutes before lunch. Marsh, who had spent four hours and a half making 56 in just the type of situation he relishes, was caught off bat and pad by Athey, giving Emburey his first and only wicket of a game in which he bowled 68 overs.

He will be disappointed because there was appreciable turn available, though, in fairness, the pitch grew steadily slower as the game progressed and was possibly at its least co-operative yesterday.

Dean Jones is more of a man for the match-winning chase than the purely negative innings and he did not suggest permanency. Athey dropped



Throwing the textbook at French: Boon has the last word (Photograph: Graham Morris)

him at second slip off Dilley when he had made eight but he reached only 24 before Moxon, at point, held a slashing drive off a wide Capel delivery at the second attempt.

Almost three hours remained and Australia were only just nosing ahead but if England retained any thoughts of a sensational collapse they were dispelled by Border.

Chastened by his first-innings failure, which he put down to an over-aggressive attitude caused by a recent surfeit of one-day cricket, Border settled down in a manner which made it plain he was there for the duration.

England wilted at last. The final session was purely academic and play was called off after seven of the last 20 overs. This, surprisingly, was only

the fifth draw in 48 Tests between Australia and England at Sydney.

The "living legend" computer Test, however, did produce a result. Australia won by 37 runs and, fittingly, the match-winning spell came from Bill O'Reilly, who retired from reporting cricket yesterday, having occupied the same seat in the Sydney press box for 41 years.

## GOLF

## Youthful raiders join big league

From Patricia Davies, Boca Raton, Florida

John Laupheimer, the commissioner of the Ladies' Professional Golf Association, described it as "an invasion" and although that is an exaggeration, Britain and Europe have mustered a respectable raiding party for an assault on the US tour, starting on Christmas Day.

They do not have the element of surprise on their side, for Laura Davies is the US Women's Open champion and Fish Johnson and Caroline Pierce finished first and second in the final qualifying school, Liselotte Neumann, of Sweden, was fourth, so the Americans are aware that their visitors are quality players and allow themselves to be mildly impressed with their achievements so far without actually shaking in their shoes.

There are plenty of battle-hardened professionals assembling for the Mazda Classic in the luxurious surroundings of the Stonebridge Golf and Country Club in Boca Raton, north of Miami, and Miss Johnson, who recently had her 22nd birthday, commented: "The players seem a lot older here. In Europe, most of the top ones are in their early or mid-twenties, but here it's a different generation. Pat Bradley looks really old."

Miss Johnson, aged 36 and based in Florida, is embarking on her fifteenth year on the tour and is not yet ready for retirement — indeed, her consistency and professionalism are virtues in themselves. She should grow to appreciate playing regularly alongside the likes of Bradley, Nancy Lopez, Betsy King and last season's No. 1, Ayako Okamoto, should bring home to the invaders that they

have moved into a different league.

Not that they do not appreciate that already, Miss Davies summed it up when she said: "We're starting again. It's new for all of us, a new challenge." Apart from a game at West Byrlton on Christmas Day, Miss Davies's golfing preparation has been limited to this past week at her father's home in South Carolina, where she shamelessly took the money from him as usual.

Supported by her brother, Tony, who carried her bag in the US Open, and has left his secure job with a seat-belt company to try the itinerant's life of a caddy, Miss Davies has her sights set on a place in the top 20, saying, "anything else would be a bonus."

Miss Johnson is also intent on a top 20 place and she has two other goals: "To win a tournament and to have a stroke average of 72." Like the others, she is excited and nervous, but reckoned her worst moment was already over. At an all-day seminar on Sunday, designed to teach newcomers how to speak to the ravens media horde, Miss Johnson had to do her stuff on camera in front of her peers. "I was shaking like a leaf," this normally ebullient character confessed, "I was far worse than I've ever been on a golf course."

Nevertheless, Miss Johnson is not the type to be intimidated, and her eyes lit up at the thought of the money on offer here. The first prize is \$30,000. She said that it would come in handy because her mother intended going on four cruises this year. "What better incentive could there be?" she said.

## Bayman back to raise the curtain

By John Hennessy

Linda Bayman perpetuates an extraordinary record of consistency with her entry, announced yesterday, in the Avia Watches Fourstones, the women's traditional curtain-raiser to be played at The Berkshire from March 15 to 17.

Bayman, then Linda Denison-Pender, partnered her mother in the inaugural tournament in 1966 and has missed only two tournaments since then, disregarding the one in 1975 which had to be abandoned because of snow. Yet she is still the right side of 40.

She has won six times with four different partners and comes forward this year with yet another new ally, her tenth, in Eavan Higgins, an Irish international. Since Higgins, like Bayman, is a member of this year's British Isles Curtis Cup short list of 17, there is clearly a strong possibility of a seventh victory for Bayman.

The entry includes all but five members of the British Isles party, of whom three, in any case, were unavailable. Jill Thorpe is the tournament's administrator and Susan Shapcott and Karen Davies are

pursuing their studies in the United States.

For the first time the Avia field includes two pairs with a combined handicap of plus three. They are the experienced Welsh players Sharon Roberts and Vicki Thomas, a member of our victorious Curtis Cup team in 1966, and two rising players from Sussex, Karen Mitchell, aged 19, and Nicola Wray, aged 20, who used to be known as the sister of a Ryder Cup player, though their respective roles seem in the process of being reversed.

Yet, whatever the handicaps may say, the most formidable partnership should be that of Claire Hourihane, the Irish champion, and her compatriot, Mary McKenna, a previous Avia winner on three occasions. They too, were members of the team who overpowered the United States in 1966 and are also among the 17 from whom this year's team will be chosen.

The sponsors expect to raise enough money, £2,200, to hand over 10 wheelchairs to the British Sports Association for Shapcott and Karen Davies are

## Welsh team will have merit on its side

By a Special Correspondent

A new order of merit system believed to be unique in the four home countries is being introduced this summer into Welsh amateur golf.

At the end of July the positions in what will really amount to a league will play the most important part in determining the composition of the Welsh team for the international in September. The top eight will automatically be in the side and the selectors will decide on the remaining three places.

The idea was first mooted after a disappointing Welsh performance in last autumn's home internationals at Lahinch, but the exact details of how it will work were only released yesterday.

Events will be split into four categories — English, Welsh and British champions, 72-hole stroke-play competitions in

Wales, 36-hole tournaments and county events — and points are to be awarded in each tournament depending on the final positions.

For example, if a Welshman wins the British amateur title he will receive 100 points, while the Welsh champion gets 60 points. In some stroke-play events there will be points at stake for players down to fifteenth place. This system is similar in some ways to that adopted to choose the Ryder Cup team, the only difference being that in that case the amount of money won is the deciding factor.

Andrew Morgan, chairman of the Welsh Golf Union, said: "What is important about this is that everyone will start the season knowing that they have a chance to play for Wales, and that is bound to increase competition, which is good for the game."

## BASKETBALL

## Greece leave England a hard act to follow

By Nicholas Harling

The last thing any coach needs after the kind of performance given by England in Amsterdam last week is a game against the European champions, David Titmus is no exception.

Secretly, he probably would have wished for opponents other than Greece, even though tonight's European championship game is at Crystal Palace. Even that might not be an advantage, since so many expatriates are expected to be there, cheering the visitors.

Titmus, though, puts on a brave face. "We know we didn't show properly in Holland," he said. "We just want to put things right. There is no question they are formidable opponents, but we have got to look forward if we are going to make a serious challenge in Europe. We know we are going in the right direction."

The squad, including Joel Moore, who missed last week's game against The Netherlands because of a back strain, will have had over two days' practice together by the time they take the court tonight. "I feel we are better prepared than last week," Titmus added.

Whatever the meticulous myth of England's organization this time, however, they will be hard pressed to stop the team that overhauled them by 41 points in Salonika last November. Greece had the supremely talented Nick Galis playing

then, but their guard has failed to recover from a groin strain, and the visiting team, as Titmus acknowledges, "so deep that they will not doubt expect worthwhile contributions from everyone else." It was only after a contentious decision by the French referee that the Greeks lost their warm-up international to France, 91-90, in Evry on Sunday.

The only predicament for Titmus is whom to exclude from England's squad of 11 now that Moore is back and "certain to play if fit". On last week's form, it could be anyone. Assuming they play, Titmus will be expecting much improved displays from Gardner and Irwin, in particular.

In the unlikely event of a home victory, England would resurrect their hopes of being one of the two nations to qualify from Group A. Should they lose, England would then have to win their last two games, in Czechoslovakia and at home to the Netherlands, but they would have to beat the Dutch by 19 points in that event.

Group A table

	P	L	W	T
Greece	3	0	0	0
Netherlands	3	2	1	0
England	3	2	1	0
Czechoslovakia	3	0	0	0
TO PLAY: Tonight: England v Greece at Crystal Palace; Wednesday: Czechoslovakia v England; Thursday: Czechoslovakia v England; Netherlands v Greece; November 26: England v Netherlands; Greece v Czechoslovakia.				

## JUDO

## Question mark on Adams

By Nicholas Soames

The question hanging over the sport is: can Neil Adams really make a comeback and win the Olympic gold medal after nearly two years since his most recent contest?

This will be partially answered on Saturday, when the Olympic silver medal winner and 1981 world champion, aged 29, returns to Crystal Palace for the British national championship.

His return in the French team championship a fortnight ago indicated that he was fit if a little rusty. Adams will not find himself pitted against Paul Sheals, the courageous Manchester fighter who has since established himself as the leading light middleweight as Sheals, along with most of the British team, is training in Japan.

There are others who could give Adams a difficult time. Among them is Paul Ajala, who won the British championship in 1986 — by armlocking Sheals. Ajala comes from Adams' own club, The Budokwai, and although such clear rivals would avoid sparring so close to a major tournament, neither could avoid the temptation when Adams returned for the first time after leaving his teaching job in France last week.

They practised twice, once standing (the throws and judo) and once on the ground (the armlocks, holds and strangles), and thus no one is in a better position to make an interim judgement on the condition of Adams than Ajala.

"He is exactly as I remember him — although he is perhaps a little trimmer, though he is certainly strong and very fit," said Ajala. "But he doesn't seem to have come back with anything new. He was doing all the things that he has been doing for so many years — tai-otoshi, uchimata, tomoe-age."

However, Ajala is the first to acknowledge that Adams may have been being deliberately cagey — no poker player however good can afford to show his entire hand a few days before the big day. He said: "Under the pressure of a competition he could go out and throw everybody for a loop — that wouldn't surprise me."

"But although I don't think he will have any difficulty in qualifying for the Olympics, I can't imagine that he will have it all his own way, and I don't think it is even certain that he will reach the final at the moment. I think he needs to find a good teacher to work on some new moves."

So the question marks still hang in the air. Saturday will surely provide some answer.

## BOXING

## Watson may be set basic lesson

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Britain's No. 7 middleweight, Michael Watson, of Islington, could steal a march on his rivals for the British title, Nigel Benn, Johnny McFie and James Cook, tonight at the Grand Hall, Wembley. If he beats Don Lee, of Milwaukee, Watson could move up to third place in the British rankings and even find a place among the world contenders, a smart piece of match-making by Mickey Duff.

Watson has had only 15 bouts (one defeat) and this will be his first 10-rounder. Lee has had 31 contests, lost two and is No. 14 in the world. Watson's top achievement as an amateur was winning the London title. Lee's was lifting the National Golden Glove title and becoming AAU champion three times.

Watson's best win as a professional was against a journeyman, Cliff Gilpin, of Telford. He beat Gilpin on points. Lee's final victory was against Tony Sibson, whom he stopped in eight rounds, after getting up off the floor twice and putting the British champion down four times.

While it is true that Duff has made several match-making blunders there is a nagging feeling that after Dave Dent's

surprise defeat by a Mexican certain that Lee is ready for the task. Duff is simply taking a calculated gamble it could prove an interesting learning contest for Watson.

Lee and his manager, Ronald Collison, do not give the impression that they have come here just for a big pay day — Lee is believed to be receiving a five-figure sum. Unlike many other similar imports, Lee has also brought along a trainer and has given himself time to get over jet-lag. Collison has even produced a comprehensive publicity pack.

On the undercard Gary Cooper (Lymington) gets another chance to win the British light-middleweight title when he meets Michael Harris, of Swansea. Cooper, who is a natural light-middle, should have too much experience at this weight for the Welshman, who three and a half years ago was a light-welterweight.

Gary Mason faces Alonzo Ratliff, of Chicago. Once a fair cruiserweight, Ratliff is on the way down, just having suffered a defeat at the hands of Mike Haydn, of Denmark, and Mason should win.

## EQUESTRIANISM

## Whitaker and Leng receive awards

By Jenny MacArthur

Virginia Leng and John Whitaker, two of Britain's brightest medal prospects for this year's Olympic Games, have won the 1987 Martini Awards for three-day eventing and show jumping respectively.

The awards, started by Martini 30 years ago and now embracing seven equestrian disciplines, are decided annually by readers of the Horse and Rider. Leng and Topic group of magazines. It is Mrs Leng's fourth award and Whitaker's second. Neither, however, were able to attend yesterday's presentation. Leng is on holiday in Mexico, where she celebrated her 33rd birthday yesterday, and Whitaker is on holiday in West Germany.

Both riders have had a morale-boosting pre-Olympic year. Leng won the British National Title on Nightcap in August at Gakombe Park and the following month, again on Nightcap, retained the individual and team gold medals at the European Championships in West Germany. In June, at the inaugural Stockholm international three-day event, she was runner-up on Master Craftsman, an eight-year-old gelding who she hopes will be her reserve horse to Mickey Hirst self for the Olympic Games.

Whitaker, whose hopes for Seoul are centred on Mr and Mrs Tom Bradley's magnificent grey gelding, Next Milton, confirmed himself as the British favourite for an Olympic show jumping medal when winning the individual silver and team gold medals at the European Show Jumping Championships in Switzerland in August.

Jennie Loriston-Clarke, a contender for the Olympic dressage team, kept up her formidable record when she won the Martini Award for dressage for the twelfth time. The award comes after consistent successes with her two top horses, Dutch Gold, winner of the Freestyle to Music at the European Championships at Goodwood, and the Dutch Bid, winner of the Prix St Georges at the championships.

The Martini Trophy was won by Robert Oliver, winner of the show jumping showman, won the Hunter championship on Freeway at the Royal International Horse Show.

MARTINI COURSE AWARDS: Show jumping: J. Whitaker, Horse Traffic; Leng, Nightcap; Dressage: J. Loriston-Clarke, Showman; R. Oliver, Freeway; Eventing: V. Leng, Topic Group of Magazines; C. Mason, Haydn; C. Cooper, Next Milton; C. Haydn, Next Milton; C. Haydn, Next Milton.

## HOCKEY

## Gymkhana pulling ahead

By Sydney Friskin

Indian Gymkhana, the titleholders, have drawn five points clear of both East Grinstead and Havant in the premier division of the Midweek Lager South League. Both, however, have a game in hand.

In the Sun Life West League, Ica, who have won the premier division for the last 10 years, have a two points advantage over Bream, and the England team, who have played the same number of games, are a further two points behind.

With four matches to be played, the tussle to finish top will intensify as only one team from Sun Life league will qualify for the first division of the National League next season. In contrast, the first three clubs from the South League will be admitted.

SOUTH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indian Gymkhana	9	6	0	3	22	9	21	Indian Gymkhana	9	6	0	3	22	9	21
East Grinstead	9	6	0	3	22	9	21	East Grinstead	9	6	0	3	22	9	21
Havant	9	7	0	2	22	9	21	Havant	9	7	0	2	22	9	21
Gore Court	10	5	1	4	17	18	18	Gore Court	10	5	1	4	17	18	18
O Taurians	11	6	1	4	25	18	18	O Taurians	11	6	1	4	25	18	18
Archons	11	6	1	4	22	16	19	Archons	11	6	1	4	22	16	19
Archons	9	8	2	1	17	17	17	Archons	9	8	2	1	17	17	17
Bogner	10	4	3	3	12	13	13	Bogner	10	4	3	3	12	13	13
Oxford Hawks	9	4	1	4	11	11	11	Oxford Hawks	9	4	1	4	11	11	11
Fareham	9	4	1	4	16	17	17	Fareham	9	4	1	4	16	17	17
Eastcote	9	3	2	4	11	11	11	Eastcote	9	3	2	4	11	11	11
Winchester	11	2	3	6	10	22	9	Winchester	11	2	3	6	10	22	9
Tunbridge W	10	4	2	4	11	11	11	Tunbridge W	10	4	2	4	11	11	11
Amersham	9	4	2	4	6	20	5	Amersham	9	4	2	4	6	20	5
Trojan	10	0	2	8	4	21	2	Trojan	10	0	2	8	4	21	2
Lewes	10	0	1	9	4	26	1	Lewes	10	0	1	9	4	26	1

## WEST LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Isca	9	8	0	1	30	3	24
Bream	9	7	1	1	19	6	22
Taunton V	9	6	2	1	18	4	20
Fredericks	9	6	2	1	19	9	20
Glouce City	9	6	1	1	14	7	19
Cheltenham	9	5	1	3	16	11	16
CS Bath Bucs	9	5	0	4	12	12	15
Plymouth	9	3	2	4	9	15	11
White Horse	9	3	2	4	9	15	11
W Wells	9	3	1	5	12	10	10
Exeter U	9	2	1	6	7	14	7
Hareford	9	2	1	6	7	14	7
Exeter Chiefs	10	1	1	8	5	18	4
Bristol	9	1	0	8	8	21	3
Marborough	9	0	3	6	3	18	3

## Lunde transferred

Aarau (Reuter) — Lars Lunde, the Danish international forward, has joined the Swiss first division club FC Aarau from the West German champions Bayern Munich.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated	
<b>FA Cup</b>	
<b>Fourth round replays</b>	
Manchester C v Blackpool .....	
Middlesbrough v Everton .....	
<b>Scottish Cup</b>	
<b>Third round</b>	
Forfar v Partick T .....	
<b>Third round replays</b>	
Ayr v Dunfermline .....	
Brechin v Dundee .....	
Cowdenbeath v Clyde .....	
Kilmarnock v Motherwell ....	
<b>Slimed Cup Third round</b>	
Reading v Nottingham F16.0 .....	
<b>Fine Fare Scottish league</b>	
<b>Premier division</b>	
Hearts v Dundee United .....	
<b>Second division</b>	
Alice v St Johnstone .....	







# Budd unwelcome in New Zealand minister warns

By Pat Batchelor, Athletics Correspondent

Zola Budd got through the world cross-country championship trial on Saturday, only to have another tribulation drop at her feet yesterday. Peter Tapsell, the New Zealand Minister for Sport and Recreation, said the South African-born runner "would not be welcome" for the world championship race in Auckland on March 26.

It is a rebuke from the highest level that Budd has ever received for spending so much time in South Africa after obtaining a British passport inside 10 days almost four years ago. Tapsell said: "We do not want her here, and believe the rules should be changed to exclude all holders of passports of convenience. I shall make that quite clear when the championships are held."

"Budd's home is South Africa, she has spent eight out of the last 12 months there, and while South Africans regard her as one of their own, her family is there, her trainer is there, even her doctor is there."

Tapsell conceded that he had no power to prevent Budd entering New Zealand, since she has a British passport and had been selected by the British athletics authorities for the five-kilometre race.

His remarks, however, are

an open invitation to anti-apartheid groups in New Zealand to have a field day. They have already threatened protests about Budd's presence. Demonstrators forced her out of the national women's cross-country championship in Birkenhead three years ago, and there was a token incursion on the course at Gateshead on Saturday.

Budd, whose fourth place in Saturday's trial assured her of an automatic British team place in Auckland, said yesterday: "I was very happy to make the team, it is up to the management now whether they want to send me or not. I am looking forward very much to going to New Zealand, because I have always admired their athletes."

British officials said yesterday that Tapsell's remarks would not make any difference to Budd's selection. Jon Wigley, for the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the championships' promoter, said: "Mr Tapsell has rightly acknowledged that, according to our rules, Zola Budd cannot be prevented from entering New Zealand, and competing. Unless there is some substantial change in the interim, there will be no further action."

Tapsell also said, however:

"Despite the fact that, under IAAF rules, Budd is eligible to run, it doesn't mean the Government considers it acceptable for her to take part. The IAAF rules should be changed. The Commonwealth Games Federation has changed its rules (of residence qualifications), and other international sports federations should follow suit. I hope to make that clear when I come to London later this month."

That raises the possibility of some proposal at Government level. But since the present British Government accorded Budd a passport in the first place, there seems little that can be done, except to hope that Budd makes good her intention to stay in Britain for an extended period. Sympathy among her fellow athletes, which was quite high when she first came to Britain, seems to be running out.

Daley Thompson, in an interview with *The Times*, touched on the Budd problem. He said: "I've got to be honest, I didn't mind her at first, but I just wish she would either go or stay. If she was going to stay, then stay here for five years, and then go back to South Africa for the rest of her life. But at least stay here now, and don't make fools of everybody."

# Golden eagle of the Forest



Searing talent: Nigel Clough, the Nottingham Forest forward, shakes hands with his father, Brian Clough, who manages the club, after receiving the Barclays Young Eagle Award for December from Bobby Robson, the England manager (centre), who described him as "a shining example for youngsters to follow".

Robson said of Clough, aged 21: "Forest had a marvellous month and Nigel played particularly well. His performances included a hat-trick in four minutes — one of the quickest on record. I couldn't do that and, better still, his father couldn't do it, either."

"There is a good young crop of players in the country and awards like this one have to be earned. They don't come easy but in December Nigel was a street ahead of everyone else. But if it had been close Nigel's impeccable behaviour on the

field — and I am sure that dad has something to do with that — would have swung the decision his way. One of the features of his game is his behaviour."

Clough, who did not play a match last month because of a hamstring injury, received an inscribed silver and a cheque for £250, which he has donated to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Robson also mentioned Des Walker, the Forest defender, and Franz Carr, the winger, as being among a batch of exciting youngsters coming through. Last weekend Robson spent a few days in his native North East, where he watched Paul Gascoigne, Newcastle's highly rated midfielder player. "He's got tremendous potential. If he can just harness his talent in the right way he will have the world at his feet."

# Foster on injury list again

From Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent  
Melbourne

Neil Foster, the England seam bowler, sees a specialist here today amid growing concern over a recurring injury to his left knee. Foster was England's most impressive bowler in the Bicentennial Test which ended yesterday.

Mickey Stewart, the team manager, said: "This is an old injury which we were all confident he had put behind him. We gave him a test in the nets before coming away and received the clear. But in the course of this match, the knee has become very stiff."

The Australian selectors yesterday recalled Simon Davis and Michael Whitney, both fast bowlers, to their squad of 12 players for the one-day international (AP reports). They replace Craig McDermott and Merv Hughes.

Test match report, page 42

# Trainer stands by embattled Sibson

Ken Squires, the trainer, will not desert Tony Sibson on Sunday despite the fact that the ban both men face for taking the 15-round world title bout with Frank Tate, of the United States, will have serious implications for him and for his boxer.

Sibson's challenge to the IBF middleweight champion has incurred the displeasure of the British Board of Control because it is over 15 rounds. It is allowing only 12-round contests on medical grounds.

With disciplinary action hanging over everybody involved at Stafford's Bingley Hall on Sunday, there is talk of legal action being taken against the board and even a breakaway body being formed.

Sibson says the controversy is affecting his training. Win or lose, however, the Leicester boxer will probably give up his British and Commonwealth titles.

But Squires is both a trainer and a manager and is worried by the board's threat. "My first duty is to Tony, though,"

he said. "I've been with him for 12 years and he needs people in his corner he can trust."

"I just can't turn round to him and say 'Good luck, but I'm not going to be in there with you'. What am I supposed to do? The fight has been organized and I am Tony's trainer. I've asked the Midlands Area Council to help me if they can."

Tate, meanwhile, can concentrate solely on the task in hand. He and his manager, Jesse Reid, are convinced that a 15-round improves their chances.

"It's the test of a true champion," Reid said. "If you are a true athlete the three extra rounds make no difference. It helps to find out who is in the greatest condition."

Tate, unbeaten in 21 professional contests and last beaten as an amateur six years ago, added: "I don't think it will go the distance, but if it does Sibson will take a beating."

# Match day ticket sales ban request

By John Goodbody

The British Government is to put pressure on the German authorities not to sell any tickets on the day of the matches of the European football championship finals in June as part of the policy to counter hooliganism.

A working party is being set up consisting of the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office, the Department of the Environment, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the British Transport Police and the football authorities to plan for the championships.

Its first meeting will take place later this month, and one of the Government's first tasks will be to persuade the West German organizers not to sell any tickets on the day of the games.

The final decision on whether English clubs should be readmitted to the European competitions is only likely to be made after the championships, the first real test of English supporters abroad since the Heysel stadium disaster in May 1985.

Hermann Neuburger, the president of the organizing committee, told *The Times* last March that if the Football Association warned him of the possibility of trouble, the organizing committee would refuse to sell any tickets on the day of those games in which England were involved.

There is a possibility that tickets may be sold on match days with the recipients being monitored, a similar procedure to that used for England's friendly against West Germany last September.

All tickets for England supporters will be distributed through the Football Association. Twenty per cent will go to each of the eight participating nations in the preliminary round.

# England dines out as Wales decide his fate

By Clive White

Speculation that Mike England had lost his job as manager of Wales after eight years intensified yesterday when it was announced that the Football Association of Wales had taken their decision but would not announce it until they had spoken personally to England.

Last night England was not prepared to wait for the decision of the council, deciding instead to take his wife out to dinner. The council had met in Welshpool amid much secrecy to vote on a recommendation by the senior international committee that England's contract should not be renewed when it expires in July.

Whether or not England has been retained as manager, it seems likely that the FA of Wales, with their financial reserves now down to £50,000, have chosen to downgrade the job still further, from a part-time post to a match-to-match contract.

If England has gone it will be interesting to hear how the council members propose to replace him. Unless they have someone in mind who is presently unattached, it is difficult to see how any of the possible candidates, like John Toshack or Brian Clough, could combine club duties with those of an international manager, however part-time the job may be.

Refusal to release the likes of Mark Hughes, the Welsh forward, for a friendly is one thing, but for a manager not to be able to attend a game would be to make an even greater mockery of the post.

If Swansea City have decided that Terry Yorath cannot manage Swansea and Wales at the same time why should the likes of Nottingham Forest or Real Sociedad decide otherwise?

In some ways the FA of Wales are fortunate to have someone as committed, respected (at least by the players) and available as England. The honour of managing Wales has always been the only consideration as far as England is concerned and he has even accepted the humiliation of pay-cuts to keep that honour. The last time his contract came up for renewal, two years ago, he agreed to take a massive salary cut when the FA of Wales — again following reports that England was to be dismissed — reduced his £23,000 full-time job to a £10,000 part-time role.

England said last night: "If there was someone who I thought could do the job better than me, I'd be the first to hold up my hand. The players have backed me 100 per cent and you cannot ask for more than that."

While popularity among players does not guarantee success, England certainly does not appear to have been harmed by it. His record of 22 victories, 16 draws and 18 defeats compares favourably with any manager in Wales's history. Perhaps England, who has narrowly failed to steer Wales into the last four major finals, has become a victim of the optimism he inspired.

"I am more concerned with our away matches. Yet sometimes it is very good. We had 2,000 fans at Ipswich on New Year's Day. There was no trouble and the police were pleased with the behaviour of our supporters."

# SPORT IN BRIEF

# Cram set to run

Steve Cram, who was forced to pull out of a road race at Durham last weekend because of illness, is expected to be back in action this Saturday.

The world record holder for the mile, who is recovering from food poisoning, is expected to run in the Chester-le-Street road race and the Signals road relays at Gateshead on Saturday, February 14.

# Arms race

Corporal Paul Lasserer, who runs for the Shafesbury and Barnet club, defends his Army cross-country title at Tweseldown, Aldershot, today. His team colleague, Flight Lieutenant Julian Goeater, defends his RAF cross-country title, at RAF Houghton, on the same day.

# Top security

Palermo (AP) — The Israeli Davis Cup tennis team is training under tight security in the Sicilian capital for its match with Italy. Israel's players have been escorted to and from practice in bullet-proof cars.

# Match off

Leeds have called off their Stones Bitter Championship match at Hull tonight because they have four players in the Great Britain squad for Saturday's international match with France at Headingley.

# Brabham blow

Brabham, the English Formula One motor-racing team, are likely to miss the world championship for the first time in 26 years this season. The team owner, Bernie Ecclestone, has been unable to find a competitive enough engine.

# Castle falls to Whichello in straight sets

Andrew Castle, the British No. 1, suffered a straight-sets defeat at the hands of Richard Whichello in the second round of the men's indoor satellite tournament at Queen's Club yesterday.

Whichello, ranked 15 in Britain and 489 places below Castle on the world computer, dismissed Castle 6-3, 6-4, in 86 minutes.

Whichello said: "I have been working hard at my all-round game, both at Bisham Abbey and abroad, and am looking forward to as much tournament practice as possible."

Bill Scanlon, the No. 2 seed, came through his match against David Felgate 6-3, 6-4. Two other seeds, Stefan Bonneau (Canada) and Mark Kratzman (Australia), both came through and now meet.

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# Richards praises a limited success

From Javed Akhtar  
Bombay

Vivian Richards, the West Indies cricket captain, described his team's loss of India as a "mini-success" as the players left for home early this week after spending more than four months in the sub-continent.

The West Indians defeated an Indian XI by nine runs in a limited-overs match at the Brabourne stadium, in Bombay, on Sunday to sign off on a winning note. The match, which was held to commemorate the centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru, the late Indian Prime Minister, was taken seriously in spite of the heavy tour.

Talking to the Press after the match, Richards said he was satisfied with the overall performance of his team after the initial disappointment of the Reliance Cup, when they failed to make the semi-finals of the World Cup for the first time.

"I am pleased with the team's performance. We drew the Test series 1-1 and won the one-day series 6-1. The showing in the one-day matches has really been heartening after the bad show in the Reliance Cup," Richards said.

He added that it would be impossible to talk of the gains of the team because a team's strengths and weaknesses can be judged only over a period of time, but he was happy with the way the players were shaping up. The West Indies have Pakistan visiting them in March, and they then embark on a full tour of England this summer.

Nevertheless, he singled out Patrick Patterson and Courtney Walsh, both fast bowlers, and batsmen Carl Hooper, Augustine Logie and Philip Simmons, for special praise for their outstanding performances during the tour.



Richards: Happy with team

Hooper, aged 21, was the revelation of the tour. His mature all-round play belied his age and lack of experience. He finished second in the Test batting averages — behind Richards — and topped the corresponding tables in the one-day matches.

He scored his first Test hundred in the second match of the series, at Calcutta, and averaged 69.75 in the one-day games. Hooper came to the West Indies after Clive Lloyd, the captain previously to Richards, introduced him to the Central Lancashire League in 1986. In his first year, Hooper broke Sir Frank Worrell's 1961 record of 1,650 by 65 runs.

His immaculate defence and sound temperament enabled Hooper to play the Indian spinners on wickets tailor-made for them. "His development is a wonderful sign for West Indies cricket," Richards said.

Richards said that his team had worked very hard. "All the hard work from the players and some wonderful support from the management helped in this mini success," he added.

About umpiring in the series, Richards said: "I wouldn't ridicule any particular umpire. As always, whatever I have to say about umpiring I would rather do in the little report that I give at the end of every match. If you did not see any particular umpire stand in more than one match, you should draw your own conclusion from that."

"In a more serious vein, he said he was unable to understand the meaning of 'neutral umpires' and what he personally favoured was an international panel of best umpires selected from all over the world who would then be sent to important assignments."

When asked how Test cricket compared with the one-day game, Richards said: "One-day cricket is like fast food. Nobody wants to cook. They want quick results. But Test cricket is the real thing. He warned that the administrators of the game must do something to make Test cricket more interesting so that it could attract crowds."

"I do not know whether I will be coming to India again," he finished. "I don't think that far ahead. But it is my ambition to give my best for West Indies cricket and I will continue to do so to the best of my ability."

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